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PRAVDA REJECTS ALLEGATIONS OF SALT VIOLATIONS

PM161819 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[Unattributed article: "Facts Versus Lies: The USSR Strictly Observes Treaty Commitments in the Sphere of Strategic Offensive Arms Limitation"]

[Text] The proposal put forward in M.S. Gorbachev's 28 February statement on resolving the problem of medium-range missiles in Europe is a convincing example of the new political thinking and the Soviet leadership's constructive approach to nuclear disarmament. The implementation of this proposal will make it possible to rid the European continent of many hundreds of Soviet and American missiles and their nuclear warheads. The United States as of today has in Western Europe 380 missiles (108 Pershing-2 and 272 cruise missiles), while the Soviet Union, in its European territory, has 355 medium-range missiles (243 SS-20's and 112 SS-4's).

The new Soviet initiative shows once again that the USSR constantly and persistently seeks opportunities to eliminate the nuclear threat and create an all-embracing system of international security. At the same time, certain military-political circles in the West, first and foremost in the United States, although sometimes admitting verbally the importance of Soviet peace proposals, in practice continue to pile up one obstacle after another in the path to building a nuclear-free world.

In coming out fundamentally against the USSR's proposed program for the phased elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000, discarding the 1972 Interim Agreement (SALT I) and the SALT II treaty, and calling for the "revision" of the ABM Treaty, right-wing conservative forces in the United States and some of their NATO allies seek not to curb the arms race but to eliminate obstacles to the implementation of their own military programs. On the pretext of the need to eliminate the "imbalance" which supposedly exists in arms, the United States intends to significantly increase its nuclear arsenal by the end of the eighties. Everything is being done to wreck the military equilibrium between the USSR and the United States and between the Warsaw Pact and NATO which became established in the seventies.

The attainment of this equilibrium was an historic gain for socialism. Let us remember that in the early sixties the U.S. nuclear potential considerably exceeded the level of our nuclear arms. The Soviet Union never sought military superiority. But nor could it forgo its own security. That is why the USSR, in the conditions of a growing threat from the United States, took appropriate measures to strengthen its defense capability, which enabled it by the beginning of the seventies to achieve approximate equality with the United States in the strategic arms sphere. "Today neither the United States nor the Soviet Union has a clear nuclear superiority," the American President admitted in February 1971.

However, military equilibrium does not suit the nuclear manufacturers and their political placemen, who dream of world domination. In order to disguise and conceal from the peoples their course of achieving military superiority for themselves, they slander the Soviet Union. For this purpose they created and utilize the myth of the "Soviet military threat." "In order to force the country to bear the burden of maintaining a big war machine," J.F. Dulles, U.S. secretary of state and one of the fathers of the "cold war," once wrote in the book "War, Peace, and Change," "it is necessary to create an emotional atmosphere equivalent to the psychology of war. It is necessary to paint a picture of an external threat..."

Renewing this threadbare formula, the present Washington administration places particular emphasis on inventing more and more new accusations against the Soviet Union of "aggressiveness" and of violating international treaties and agreements.

For many years, Washington officials and their yes-men in Western Europe have been poisoning the international atmosphere with fabrications about the USSR's "dishonesty" in fulfilling treaty commitments. These have been intended for people who are ignorant of the true state of affairs and are unacquainted with the content of the Soviet-U.S. treaties during the arms race. Lacking any plausible facts, the malevolent anti-Soviets are trying to reinforce their fictions with sham arguments. On the one hand, they claim that it is apparently impossible to monitor [kontrolirovat] Soviet treaty observance using U.S. national technical means, then, contradicting themselves, they produce the lie about "violations by the Soviet side," recorded by those selfsame national technical means.

The flimsiness of the claims about the impossibility of verification [kontrol] using national technical means was convincingly refuted [as published] by, in particular, former CIA Director W. Colby. He was asked by the newspaper USA TODAY: "If the United States is unable to check [proverit] what weapons the USSR has, then should it conclude any arms agreement with the Soviet Union?" The reply was: "It should not, unless we are capable of verifying [proverit] fulfillment of the agreement. But we can do this."

U.S. national verification [kontrol] means have never indicated any violations of any international agreements by the USSR. Back in 1985 a U.S. spokesman on the Soviet-U.S. Standing Consultative Commission on verification [proverka] of the observance of concluded agreements confirmed in Congress that the USSR was strictly fulfilling all its commitments. In 1986 the U.S. Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff committee came to the same conclusion on the basis of an "evaluation of U.S. intelligence data." In the report "The Military Status of the United States", submitted to Congress, the committee plainly stated: The Soviet Union is completely abiding by its commitments.

Contrary to the facts, Pentagon spokesmen and other "hawks" are claiming the opposite. Apparently, the "truth" that the Soviet Union, in modernizing strategic offensive armaments, is not dismantling its old nuclear weapons, as the United States "invariably does," is available only to them and only from "sources" known to them. According to them, the United States, by destroying its old armaments and replacing them with the same number of up-to-date weapons, is "disarming" in the face of a "Soviet military threat." This and certain "other violations" by the USSR -- they claim -- prompted the United States to abandon the SALT II treaty, as well as the 1972 Interim Agreement on Certain Measures With Respect to the Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (SALT I).

However, the facts, real facts rather than fabrications, speak differently. Since the signing of the Soviet-U.S. SALT I and SALT II agreements, the USSR, fulfilling its treaty commitments, has dismantled more than twice as many strategic arms as the United States has (see table 1 below). So the SALT II treaty and the 1972 Interim Agreement by no means diminished the security of the United States.

Overall, as is evident from table 2, by 1 January 1987 the Soviet Union had a few more strategic delivery vehicles than the United States, but the United States had an advantage in the total number of nuclear charges. As a result there is evidence of approximate equilibrium.

These data convincingly refute the lie about the USSR's alleged aggressive intentions and about its violations of international commitments. The lies and fabrications about the Soviet Union's alleged violations of treaties and agreements it has concluded remain lies and fabrications no matter who repeats them.

The facts bear out that our country has always advocated and continues to advocate strict observance of the concluded agreements and the preservation of everything positive so far achieved in the field of strategic arms limitation with such difficulty and effort. Fidelity to international commitments on the part of the United States and its renouncement of the course toward undermining the military-strategic parity would be of great importance for the consolidation of world peace and for ensuring favorable conditions for new Soviet-U.S. accords on arms limitation and reduction. Only through joint efforts, and weighing once again all the responsibility which falls on the USSR and the United States in the present extraordinarily complex international situation, is it possible to achieve the aim defined in the Soviet-U.S. Joint Statement adopted in Geneva in 1985, namely to avert any war between our countries, nuclear or conventional.

Table 1

Figures for Dismantling Soviet and U.S. Delivery Vehicles Under SALT I and II

	USSR	United States
ICBM Launchers	293	37
including:		
under SALT I	209	37
under SALT II	84	nil
SLBM Launchers	287	176
Heavy Bombers	36	77
Total Delivery Vehicles	616	290

Table 2

Figures for Soviet and U.S. Strategic Nuclear Forces (as of 1 Jan 1987)

	USSR	United States
ICBM Launchers	1398	1016
including ICBM launchers with MIRVED warheads	820	550
SLBM Launchers	922	672
including SLBM launchers with MIRVED warheads	352	640
Total ICBM and SLBM Launchers	2320	1688
including ICBM and SLBM launchers with MIRVED warheads	1172	1190
Heavy Bombers	164	522
including heavy bombers armed with cruise missiles	56	132
Total ICBM, SLBM, and heavy bomber launchers	2484	2210
including those equipped with MIRVED warheads and cruise missiles	1228	1322
Total charges on strategic carrier vehicles	approx 10000	approx 15000

BOGACHEV SAYS USSR READY FOR TESTS BAN

LD171838 Moscow TASS in English 1825 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 17 TASS -- By TASS military writer Vladimir Bogachev.

Experts justly hold that the attitude to the problem of banning nuclear explosions is indicative of a real attitude of the sides to the entire range of arms control questions. The side that refuses to take such a simple, extremely effective and easily verifiable measure can hardly be expected to agree to an arrangement on limitation and reduction of weapons arsenals at all. Assertions of representatives of the U.S. Administration that the continuation of testing and upgrading of nuclear weapons is the best way of making nuclear weapons "obsolete and impotent" could make one merely shrug one's shoulders if the vital problems of mankind's survival were not involved.

Also justifiable is the conclusion that the approach of some or other country to talks on ending nuclear weapon tests is indicative of what is the attitude of a given country to the very idea of the quest for mutually acceptable solutions to disarmament problems.

The U.S. side announced at the USSR-U.S. talks on nuclear testing that were resumed in Geneva that it still views the test ban as its long-term goal which, however, can be achieved only after all nuclear arms have been eliminated. Thus Washington will be prepared to ban nuclear testing, but only when nothing will remain to be tested. And such an attitude is not funny. For the U.S. side proposed to approach the elimination of nuclear arsenals through their preliminary build-up by the United States.

Following such logic one might arrive at the conclusion that a mine field is the safest place for the rest of people, while to fill one's house with petrol and powder is the best way of preventing a fire.

Realizing the utter absurdity of its "reasoning" in favor of the continuation of nuclear testing, Washington now tries to pass itself off as a supporter of arrangements and even comes out with its own "initiatives" for the ratification of the peaceful nuclear explosions treaty and the treaty on the limitation of underground nuclear weapon tests. These are all grounds to believe that by these proposals the United States aims to give up the solution of the question of ending tests and even to "legalize" nuclear explosions in some way.

Washington has no wish to end tests and tries to replace the solution to this extremely important question with half-way measures. The U.S. delegation in Geneva is unhappy about "threshold" treaties closely linked with the question of ending tests. One gets the impression that Washington is now looking for a pretext to disrupt the talks on banning explosions.

The Soviet Government is deeply convinced that an end to nuclear explosions would halt the arms race, would make it possible to embark on the elimination of nuclear weapons. The Soviet Union kept from nuclear explosions for 19 months, thus giving a chance to the U.S. Administration to ponder on the consequences of acute destabilisation of the situation as a result of the arms build-up.

The USSR is prepared for any form of talks with the USA on nuclear explosions, for any version of arrangement on this question is the matters are really carried to the achievement of an agreement on a complete ban on nuclear weapon tests.

CHERVOV ON SOVIET ARMS CONTROL POSITION

AU121227 Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 10 Mar 87 p 4

[Article by Nikolay Chervov, chief of a directorate of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff, dispatched through NOVOSTI: "The United States Is Evading the Main Issue"]

[Text] The seventh round of the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space arms ended on 6 March. In the second half of January the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) published the document "Proposals of the United States and the Soviet Union in the Seventh Round of the Talks on Nuclear and Space Arms." The document sets out, according to the American interpretation, the countries' common approach on the subjects of the talks. Here Nikolay Chervov, chief of a directorate of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff, gives the Soviet position regarding the content of the ACDA document:

Judging from the ACDA document, the American side at the seventh round of the talks on nuclear and space arms retreated to a marked extent from what was achieved at Reykjavik. The USSR's proposals put forward at Reykjavik are presented in this document in a distorted form. I will cite the facts.

The American document makes an attempt to contrast the package of Soviet proposals made at the seventh round of the talks on nuclear and space arms to the Soviet proposals at the Geneva summit meeting in November 1985. This is done in such a way to make the mutual understanding achieved at Reykjavik as if of no importance.

At the Geneva meeting and both before and after it, that is, from the first day of the talks on nuclear and space arms to the present day, the Soviet proposals on strategic offensive arms were not examined in the context of solving the problem of outer space. The Soviet side has always declared, and is declaring now that space must remain peaceful, that there must be no weapons there, either Soviet or American, and that only in such a case is a radical reduction in strategic offensive arms possible.

It is strange that the U.S. officials at ACDA do not know about this Soviet position. They do not even know that at the Geneva meeting the two sides made differing interpretations of the concept of "a 50 percent reduction": The United States saw it as a 50 percent reduction of strategic offensive arms only, while the Soviet Union saw it as a 50 percent reduction of all strategic arms reaching the territory of the other side. In omitting this "detail," they turn everything upside down.

The explanation is simple: It is not to their advantage to speak about the Soviet proposals at Reykjavik at all, because the U.S. side is now returning to its positions prior to Reykjavik. Hence the attempts to conceal from the public everything achieved at Reykjavik and to give a "noble" gloss to the U.S. position at the seventh round of talks.

The USSR considers the Reykjavik summit a watershed event. It culminates one stage of our disarmament struggle and marks the beginning of the next one. The Soviet proposals made at Reykjavik are still in force. Now there can be no retreat from Reykjavik, whatever the opposition from extreme right-wing circles in the United States.

Now the U.S. side, judging from the ACDA document, has hardened its position on the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). The United States would like, with the Soviet Union's agreement, to develop and test everything needed for deploying a wide-scale antimissile defense system with space-based components over a fixed (10-year) period. When this work is completed, and if the possibility opens up of implementing SDI, then they will start deploying the space antimissile defense system. However, within this period, according to Washington's idea, the sides must make deep cuts in their ballistic missiles, down to a level of 4,500 warheads according to the U.S. "50-percent version." Accordingly, SDI will only have to be built to combat 4,500 warheads, which already makes the building of the space antimissile defense system easier and creates confidence in the system's reliability.

It must be clear that the USSR will not disarm unilaterally in order to please the United States. Here there is no place for compromises.

Now the question stands like this: Will a movement start toward a real reduction in nuclear arms, or will a new stage in the arms race begin, connected with the implementation of the U.S. "Star Wars" program? In America the forces of the extreme right are pushing the President to make a speedier start on deploying a land-based antimissile defense system based on existing technology, without waiting for the development of the components for a space-based antimissile defense system. Caspar Weinberger, when speaking recently at the National Press Club in Washington, stated directly that the Pentagon intends to start deploying space weapons within the framework of the SDI program according to the degree of their readiness. Again, the U.S. President himself, in his speech of 12 January (on the eve of the seventh round of talks), declared his support for the soonest possible implementation of the SDI program. Evidently this is why publications like the ACDA document are appearing which obscure the main issue, namely whether space is to remain peaceful, or whether it is to become a sphere for deploying dangerous weapons. The attitude of the sides to this question is the criterion for assessing the sincerity of their intentions regarding the elimination of the nuclear threat on earth. The positive solution of this issue is of interest to all countries, both great and small, and they clearly have to be more deeply involved in the disarmament process.

CHERNYSHEV LAMENTS BRITISH ARMS STANCE

LD131428 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1350 GMT 13 Mar 87

["Liquidate the Nuclear 'Swords' and 'Daggers' -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Mar (TASS) -- TASS military affairs observer Vladimir Chernyshev writes:

The possibility of making major decisions in the disarmament field has arisen thanks to the initiative of the Soviet Union. It is precisely in this favorable atmosphere that the official visit to the USSR of the head of the British Government, Margaret Thatcher, is to take place. In this connection, the statement by Geoffrey Howe, the secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs of Great Britain, assuring that "Britain will play its role" at the talks between the USSR and the United States in Geneva, including during the prime minister's visit to Moscow, is most indicative. Without doubt, many British people are now pondering the question: How can their country help the process of nuclear disarmament, and is the British Government ready to undertake such an important mission?

The questions are not simple, and the complexity of the reply to them is connected with the policy of the present British leadership. Mrs Thatcher has called the Soviet proposal to destroy medium-range missiles in Europe "a good step forward". But concerning the final goal, the positions of the Soviet and British Governments clearly diverge. The USSR considers solving the problem of Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles as the first step on the road to a nuclear-free Europe, completely freeing the world from nuclear weapons. The prime minister of Great Britain has more than once declared that Great Britain cannot build its defense only on conventional weapons. According to the philosophy being preached by her, nuclear weapons are almost a boon, and there is no alternative to nuclear strategy.

Let us recall that immediately after the Soviet-U.S. meeting in Reykjavik, Mrs Thatcher immediately went to Washington where she passionately sought to convince President Ronald Reagan not to cross the 50 percent line in reductions in strategic offensive armaments and to give up a commitment to eliminate them in a 10-year period. What aim then was she pursuing in this? It is quite clear that the aim is to defend the British nuclear potential and to preserve the privileged "nuclear club" and one's own place in it in order to be somehow different from other Western states. After all, London had at one time been promising "with time to join" the USSR and the United States, if they should agree to a substantial reduction in their nuclear forces. Now that real possibilities are appearing for beginning the process of nuclear disarmament and a real threat has arisen to the imaginary privileges accorded by Britain's nuclear status, the promise once given has become quite undesirable, and has become a burden for the Tory government.

Mrs Thatcher is trying not to destroy British nuclear weapons, but to increase them. For according to plans, the British Navy alone will step up the quantity of nuclear warheads from 64 to 512 units, and the overall nuclear potential of Great Britain will be increased to 1,088 charges.

Even after Reykjavik, statements about the continuity of British plans to improve and build up the nuclear forces repeatedly came from the banks of the Thames. The prime minister herself pointed out in answer to a question in Parliament that even in the event of substantial cuts in Soviet and U.S. strategic potential, Great Britain does not intend to abandon modernization through purchase of the "Trident" missile systems. Official circles in London certainly do not want to reject participation in the SDI program, although it is well understood there that this program hinders the conclusion of agreement on cutting strategic arms.

I am sure that Moscow will always share the concern of any guest for the security of the latter's country and will strive together with them to find the shortest possible road to the liquidation of nuclear weapons and reduction of conventional weapons to the minimum that would ensure mutual security. This is all founded on an essential condition, that of concern for mutual and universal security. At the same time, it is hardly likely that people in our capital will understand the desire to keep the nuclear "swords" and "daggers" and the desire to be content with the "balance of terror." In the nuclear-space age all this threatens both our common European home and the whole of mankind.

DRUZHININ CRITICIZES WEINBERGER SDI DIRECTIVE

LD142118 Moscow World Service in English 1410 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] The United States Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger has signed a directive on military operations in outer space. Analysis from our commentator Aleksandr Druzhinin. This is what he writes:

Even recently, claims were made in Washington that President Reagan's so-called Strategic Defense Initiative was confined only to laboratory research. Washington leaders refute themselves now. Caspar Weinberger's directive goes beyond research and amounts to taking practical steps to turn outer space into an arena for future battles. His directive says that space is regarded as a sphere of conducting military operations the same as land, water, and the atmosphere. The picture of preparing for Star Wars painted in Caspar Weinberger's directive is elaborated in the American press, which reports that the United States expects to deploy in space the first SDI components as early as 1991.

How does Washington justify its line for space militarization? The claims are the same as the ones used to try to justify other steps for an arms buildup. This is talk about some sort of Soviet military superiority. In Caspar Weinberger's directive, the Soviet Union is alleged to be striving for military domination in space, so the United States has to hurry. The American policymakers have an amazing ability not to hear what they don't want to. The whole point is that Moscow has declared on many occasions officially that the USSR does not make any preparations to deploy arms in space. This country has repeatedly warned the United States that the shifting of the arms race to outer space carries unpredictable consequences, that arms control will then become impossible and that the arms race will be elevated to a new qualitative round that will be even more dangerous.

Back in January last year, as Mikhail Gorbachev advanced a program for total stage-by-stage elimination of weapons of mass destruction by the end of this century, he offered, as the very first stage, banning the use of outer space for military purposes. The Soviet Union upheld this stand of principle in Reykjavik, too. It is pressing for keeping the Anti-Ballistic Missile Defense Treaty, which bans the militarization of space and which the United States would like to wreck. But Washington stubbornly refuses to heed the voice of reason. The allegiance of the United States administration to the idea of the Star Wars -- and that already blocked the path to disarmament accord in Reykjavik -- still overpowers common sense.

CSCE REPRESENTATIVES MEET VIENNA PEACE ACTIVISTS

LD161843 Moscow TASS in English 1827 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Vienna March 16 TASS -- Ways and methods of accelerating the all-European process for promoting international mutual understanding and cooperation were central to the discussions held here today between the participants in the current meeting of representatives of the states participants in the meeting on security and cooperation in Europe and the fourth Vienna dialogue on detente and disarmament.

The heads and members of the delegations of a number of countries at the meeting of representataives of the states participants in the conference on European security and cooperation spelled out the stands of their countries on the all-European process. Special attention was devoted to the role of the public in implementing the Helsinki accords.

4TH VIENNA DIALOGUE ON DETENTE MEETING ENDS

Moscow TASS in English 20001 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Vienna March 16 TASS -- The 4th Vienna Meeting-Dialogue for Disarmament and Detente ended here today. It was attended by representataives of political and parliamentary circles, anti-war, trade union and women's organizations from more than 60 countries of all continents.

A statement "For a Europe Free of Medium-Range Missiles, for a Nuclear-Free Europe, for a Nuclear-Free World" was published on the last day of the conference. It was sponsored by representatives of Belgium, Britain, the GDR, Italy, Holland, the United States, the Soviet Union, the FRG and Czechoslovakia. They welcomed the proposals made by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev to fully eliminate Soviet and American medium-range missiles in Europe.

Also adopted was an open letter to the Vienna meeting of representatives of the member states of the European Conference on Security and Cooperation. The letter stressed the vital need of taking urgent and effective steps in the interests of eliminating nuclear arms and ensuring mutual trust and equal security for all.

VIENNA TALKS ON THERMONUCLEAR REACTOR END

LD171042 Moscow TASS in English 1031 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Vienna March 17 TASS -- Delegations from the Soviet Union, the United States, Japan and the European Economic Community ended talks here for launching cooperation in developing an international thermonuclear reactor.

The Soviet delegation was led by Boris Semenov, a deputy chairman of the State Committee for the Use of Atomic Energy.

The attending delegations outlined practical measures of cooperation in the field, including joint work to produce a detail design of the reactor by the year 1990 as a first step.

The planned measures are a good basis for pooling the efforts of the countries concerned in the peaceful use of thermonuclear energy for the benefit of all mankind.

ROGACHEV BRIEFS JOURNALISTS ON SHEVARDNADZE TRIP

TV Report on 17 Mar Briefing

LD180018 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2222 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] A briefing on current international questions has been held at the press center of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Comrade Rogachev, deputy minister of foreign affairs, who spoke there, told Soviet and foreign journalists about the results of the official visits by Comrade Shevardnadze to Australia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. He stressed that the meetings and conversations held with the leaders of those countries were an important step on the road to implementing the conception of lasting peace and all-embracing security in the Asia-Pacific region, which was put forward in Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's speech in Vladivostok.

Comrade Gerasimov, head of the Information Department of the USSR Foreign Ministry, dwelt on topical questions of the international situation and Soviet-U.S. relations.

Replies were given to questions put by journalists. [video shows Rogachev speaking, with Gerasimov on his left; there are no other persons on the platform]

AFP Report

AU171350 Paris AFP in English 1345 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, March 17 (AFP) -- The Soviet Union is seeking a negotiated solution to the Cambodian conflict, Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev reaffirmed here Tuesday.

Commenting on an Asian tour by Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze which ended last Friday, Mr Rogachev told a news conference that "much attention" had been devoted to Cambodia in Mr. Shevardnadze's discussions. But he stressed that developing "the tendency towards a dialogue" would take time, and was "not a unilateral act".

The foreign minister's tour took him to Thailand, Australia, Indonesia, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Mr. Rogachev said that the Soviet Union's allies in the region -- Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia -- visited by Mr. Shevardnadze had agreed to work towards settling the conflict, and Cambodian leader Heng Samrin was "sincerely interested in peace".

Mr. Rogachev indicated that the Vietnamese-installed Cambodian leader intended to develop relations with the non-communist countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations on a basis of "non-interference".

Indochina and the Soviet Union also called for normalization of relations with China, during Mr. Shevardnadze's trip, Mr. Rogachev noted.

Concerning the Soviet Union's own enhanced relations with Beijing since the successful resumption of border talks last month, he said the two had signed a protocol here Monday after a meeting of a joint commission set up to discuss shipping and port work on the Amur River.

The protocol was aimed at making the passage of ships easier in the river running along part of their 7,500 kilometre (4,650 mile) border.

NATO 'COLD WINTER-87' EXERCISES BEGIN IN NORWAY

LD181002 Moscow TASS in English 0936 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Oslo March 18 TASS -- NATO's large-scale field exercises codenamed Cold Winter-87 began in Norway's north today.

The exercises are involving about 15,000 servicemen of four countries of the bloc -- Norway, the United States, Britain, and Holland, and a large number of combat aircraft, artillery, tanks, armoured personnel carriers and other military hardware.

According to the local press, the first phase of the exercises will include the advance of troops to assembly areas where hardware had been brought in advance.

A combat phase of the exercises will begin on March 20. It is also planned to carry out land and amphibious operations.

OFFICIALS DISCUSS EGYPT TIES, LIBYA, ETHIOPIA

JN171018 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 14 Mar 87 pp 26, 27

[Panel discussion with Anatoliy Gromyko, director general of the Africa Institute in the USSR Academy of Sciences, and Aleksey Vasilyev, deputy director of the Africa Institute in the USSR Academy of Sciences, by AL-ANBA' correspondent Salam Musafir in Moscow -- date not given]

[Excerpts] [Musafir] In their speeches, the Soviet leaders often point out that the Strategic Defense Initiative system [SDI] constitutes a threat to the independence of developing countries. How can this equation be grasped? Can you clearly reveal the essence of SDI?

Gromyko: Yes, there is a direct danger. This danger has two aspects. The first is a purely military aspect. It implies that militarization of space would lead to an escalation of the arms race, and increase the prospects of a new world war which would certainly be the last war, with the direct or indirect destruction of mankind. I mean by indirect destruction the so called "nuclear winter". This is slow and certain destruction of mankind in both advanced and developing countries.

The other aspect is economic. According to views expressed by U.S. experts themselves, such as former Secretaries of Defense Schlesinger, McNamara, Brown, and others, applying SDI needs $1-3 trillion and a supporting annual budget of $200 billion. How can the United States obtain these imaginary amounts of money, bearing in mind that U.S. Government debts exceed $2 trillion, while its foreign debts, which increase continuously, amount to $250 billion? [passage omitted]

[Musafir] Many Arab writers indicate that Moscow has committed political mistakes in its dealings with Egypt. Can you discuss Egyptian-Soviet relations during the era of late Presidents 'Abd al-Nasir and Al-Sadat?

Vasilyev: Of course everyone is free to change history according to his whim. There are indisputable facts and laws which will be proclaimed sooner or later regardless of the temporary fluctuation in the political situation. Some time ago, futile words were voiced about the Aswan Dam. Despite that, this dam remained a lofty achievement giving abundantly to Egypt and rescuing millions of Egyptians from the famine caused by the recent years of drought. This is not my personal assessment of the Aswan Dam. This view was expressed by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. Similar assessments were also carried by Egyptian papers. The Aswan Dam is in fact a symbol of Arab-Soviet friendship. Whoever tries to deal a blow to the dam is actually trying to deal a blow to this friendship which all efforts have failed to undermine. The fact is that the beneficiaries from undermining Egyptian-Soviet friendship and Arab-Soviet friendship are not Arabs. Even those Arabs who participate in sabotaging the friendship or who benefit from such sabotage are actually not nationalists. This is exactly how Arab politicians, the Arab peoples and the Egyptian people in particular appraised Al-Sadat. What Soviet mistakes are they talking about? About the open door policy? About torpedoing the Egyptian-Soviet treaty? About the visit to the Knesset? About the Camp David deal? All these steps are closely tied to a logical order. These are not series of coincidences or secondary mistakes. They are part of a plan known more to the Arabs than to others.

Professor Vasilyev added: In order to draw a comparison, I would like to point to our relationship with Kuwait, which developed constantly. This is a wonderful example of relations developing when both sides have good intentions. The State of Kuwait is not a unique or unusual case. Our relations are developing with Syria, Jordan, Algeria, Tunisia, the two parts of Yemen, Morocco, Libya, and most of the Arab countries, regardless of their political lines or type of regime.

[Musafir] How do you assess the current relations between Moscow and Cairo?

Vasilyev: Currently, our relations with Egypt are governed by the heritage of the recent past, which is not easy to discount. They are also governed by other objective factors that keep us apart, factors that are also not easy to discount. But there are more important factors that affect our relations -- namely, the effects of the relations that used to bind the two countries in the recent past. By this I mean the heritage of Egyptian-Soviet friendship which has taken root in the hearts of our two peoples and, I believe, also in the two countries' political quarters. Our understanding of this axiom and our adherence to the peace-loving Soviet foreign policy have recently helped to bring about positive progress in the efforts to normalize relations between us and Egypt. Of course, this progress can never and will never be made at the expense of abandoning our foreign policy principles, at the expense of the interests of the other Arab peoples, or at the expense of our relations with these peoples. However, any progress in the efforts to normalize relations with Egypt serves the interests of the two peoples, serves the cause of peace in general, and can have a positive effect that could help the efforts aimed at reaching a regional settlement. We have good intentions concerning our readiness to participate in the efforts which seek to find a regional settlement.

[Musafir] Some political observers said that the Soviet Union is extending aid, through Ethiopia, to the rebel movement in southern Sudan. What is your comment on this issue?

Gromyko: The Soviet Union has not extended and will never extend any form of aid to the rebel movement in southern Sudan and also views the situation in southern Sudan as an internal Sundanese issue. The principle of noninterference in the two countries' internal affairs was emphasized in the joint statement issued at the end of Sundanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's visit to the Soviet Union. This principle governs our reltations with Sudan. Besides, it is wrong to say we are extending aid, as alleged, through Ethiopia. It is well known that over the past 12 years -- namely, since the establishment of revolutionary rule in Ethiopia -- Ethiopian diplomacy, even at the most critical and strained phase of relations with Sudan during Numayri's rule, has exerted strenuous efforts to entrench the principles of noninterference in Sudan's internal affairs, to uphold the principles of equality and independence in Ethiopia's relations with Sudan, and to respect Sudan's territorial integrity and unity. These efforts fall within the framework of Ethiopia's plan which seeks to establish good neighborly relations with all countries of the Horn of Africa.

[Musafir] What is the Soviet nation's stand on the so-called Saharan people's cause and the Polisario? What solution do you envision for the Saharan conflict?

Vasilyev: Obviously you refer to the Western Sahara. International conventions and laws provide the bases for resolving this conflict. It could be resolved if the UN General Assembly resolutions on the conflict, especially Resolution 4050 which was issued in 1983 and which stipulates that the Western Saharan conflict be resolved through peaceful means, were implemented. The Soviet Union's stand on this conflict is very obvious, and this was reflected in its vote in favor of the above mentioned resolution. This Soviet stand stems from the general Soviet policy that seeks to quell hotbeds of tension and resolve conflicts through peaceful means and on the basis of the principles of justice, taking the legitimate rights of all the parties concerned into consideration.

[Musafir] It is known that Ethiopia suffers from a big domestic issue, the Eritrean issue, and it has been said several times that the Eritrean Arab Muslim people are exposed to an annihilation campaign by the Ethiopian regime. Can you explain to us the essence of the stand toward the Eritrean people's cause? In your opinion, what are the means to settle the Eritrean issue? Can we say that Ethiopia is proceeding firmly on the road to the socialist course?

Gromyko: Let me state that there is no Eritrean issue in the full sense of the word, but there is a problem of Eritrean secessionists. This is a painful problem, of course, especially in a multinational country such as Ethiopia. It is known that after the victory of the democratic national revolution in Ethiopia in 1974, the new authority announced equal rights for all nationalities and religions as a sound basis for settling the national question. The resolution issued by the Ethiopian legislative committee in 1976 on guaranteeing the Eritrean people's right to self-determination on the basis of a regional autonomy rule, is also known. This principled dealing with the national question is stated in the new Ethiopian draft constitution. Thus, all the delusions and claims that the Muslims in Eritrea are being persecuted have been removed. [passage omitted]

After the victory of the revolution in 1974, Ethiopia has determined its course of development. Now the country is about to establish a people's democratic republic. As stated in the draft constitution, after the national democratic revolution is achieved, the country will lay down the basis for socialism. [paragraph continues]

The implementation of the socialist approach, the establishment of new social relations, and the introduction of new approaches in the government and the economy will be complicated due to the past legacy.

[Musafir] Some people say that the USSR seeks to establish an alliance among Libya, Ethiopia, and the PDRY with the aim of erecting a bridgehead toward the Red Sea. How sound an opinion in this, an what is your viewpoint on alliances in the Africal Continent in general?

[Silyev] We should recall here the friendship and cooperation agreement which was signed by Libya, Ethiopia, and the PDRY in Aden in August 1981. It was held during the same period in which the Mediterranean basin witnessed intensified and violent U.S. military activities in which Washington's allies took part. I mean the large-scale "Bright Star" maneuvers. These maneuvers were conducted near the borders of these three states. Of course, these states have the right to take defensive measueres in light of these maneuvers. The signatories to the Aden agreement have decided to unify their efforts to defend their independence, security, and the safety of their states. As the agreement stated, it is not aimed against anyone, in addition to that it is open for any one to join.

After any effort to unify the progressive forces, particularly regarding their independent course of development, we are accustomed to hearing from Western circles the term "Moscow's hand". The claims that Moscow seeks to establish a bridgehead in the Red Sea are based on this myth. I would like to affirm that the signatories to the Aden tripartite agreement expressed their desire to confront the hostile U.S. policy, and for peace and the progressive development of the region's peoples. Moreover, they also announced that they are against the establishment of security alliances or the so-called security alliances which have an imperialist nature, particularly against the plan of turning the Red Sea into a U.S. "lake". It is known that our country supports cooperation among the countries which opt for regional cooperation to pave the way for the African peoples' political, economic, and social development, and for liberating the African Continent from imperialist subservience.

[Musafir] There are some people in the Arab world who believe that in view of the high level of cooperation between the Soviet Union and Libya, the Soviet Union could have played a more effective role in staving off the U.S. aggression against Libya. How do you view such a belief? How do you assess the situation with regard to Libya now?

Vasilyev: Sometimes a simplistic understanding of complex and serious political issues is found in some Arab quarters. Sometimes they display exaggerated and extreme reactions that are not commensurate with the incident in question. In politics there is no room at all for emotional reactions or excessive excitement. Such excitement could cost mankind its survival.

The Soviet Union has responded in a responsible manner to the U.S. aggression against Libya. In this regard one should note that the aggression was not directed against Libya alone but against all the Arabs. As for Soviet conduct prior to and after the U.S. aggression against Libya, there is common understanding between the Libyan and Soviet sides, as testified by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi in his speech after the piratical raid. The leader of the Libyan revolution highly valued the Soviet Union's action. The Libyan leaders also highly value the measures adopted by the Soviet Union to strengthen Libya's defense capabilities.

The situation with regard to Libya is now explosive -- although recently the imperialist powers have increased their pressure on Syria and Nicaragua, as they were chosen as victims of a new U.S. aggression in the present stage.

[Musafir] How do you analyze U.S. policy toward North Africa? In your view, what will be the results of such a policy?

Vasilyev: I believe it would be better to address such a question to the representatives of the North African countries. Certainly the answer to the question will be multifaceted. Some of these countries, such as Egypt and Sudan, rely on U.S. aid. Often one hears in political circles of these countries' arguments in favor of the need, and indeed the inevitability, of holding on to the good relations with the United States. However, even among these circles some aspects of U.S. policy arouse dissatisfaction, such as the hijacking of the Egyptian plane by the Americans last fall [as published]. The hijacking shocked Egyptian political circles. The reaction of the Egyptian man in the street to the hijacking is known. The same applies to U.S. support for the Israeli piracy in Tunisia, and to the barbaric U.S. attack on Libya. Such actions have given rise to a wave of sharp condemnation not only in public opinion but also among all North African governments without exception. U.S. policy has achieved certain successes in the past 10 years but has recently been subjected to failure. Such failure is seen in the results. No one except the U.S. Administration sets out to enjoy horror films in the Hollywood manner -- and I mean the attack on Libya. I do not believe there are any Arabs who like open barbarism and lack of principles in politics -- and that is the approach that characterizes U.S. policy.

[Musafir] What is your stand on the situation in Chad, and how do you view the solution to the Chadian problem?

Gromyko: The situation in Chad is truly tragic. There is a civil war raging in the country that affects the fate of people. There are Habre's forces, and there are the forces of the unified national front that are struggling against Habre's forces. At the same time the conflict is exacerbating as a result of foreign intervention by France and to a certain degree by the United States which is supplying certain weapons including Stinger missiles. Such interference does not help to resolve the situation. I believe that France and the United States must stop interfering in Chadian affairs, for their interference has internationalized the conflict. Chad is subjected to French influence under various pretexts and excuses. We believe the Chadians are not free in making decisions, and this conflicts with the right of peoples to self-determination. [passage omitted]

ARMACOST, VORONTSOV, LIGACHEV ON REGIONAL ISSUES

LD161110 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1050 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, 16 Mar (TASS) -- In accordance with a preliminary accord, a routine Soviet-U.S. exchange of opinions on a broad range of regional issues began today at the USSR Foreign Ministry. Taking part in the discussions on the Soviet side is Yuliy Vorontsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister, Igor Rogachev, USSR deputy foreign minister, and other senior workers at the USSR Foreign Ministry. The U.S. delegation is led by Michael Armacost, U.S. under secretary of state for political affairs.

Shevardnadze Receives Armacost

LD171320 Moscow TASS in English 1302 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 17 TASS -- Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze today received U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Michael Armacost who had taken part in a Soviet-American exchange of opinions on regional issues here.

Shevardnadze and Armacost discussed pressing international problems and issues of priority importance to the Soviet-U.S. relationship at the current, crucial phase in its development.

Gerasimov on Talks

AU171412 Paris AFP in English 1408 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, March 17 (AFP) -- Talks between Soviet officials and visiting U.S. Under Secretary of State Michael Armacost have been "very useful, even if it is too early to highlight their results," Soviet foreign affairs spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov said here Tuesday.

Mr. Armacost arrived Saturday for a long-arranged visit that has taken on new significance as preparations are made for next month's visit to Moscow by Secretary of State George Shultz.

The U.S. official met Tuesday afternoon with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and held a working meeting Monday with Yuliy Vorontsov, the first deputy foreign minister and chief Soviet negotiator at the Geneva arms talks.

Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev, who was also at the meeting, said during a news conference Tuesday that "a wide range of questions linked to regional problems were raised during the stay."

Mr. Rogachev said Asian topics had been at the centre of Monday's talks, but when asked about Afghanistan the minister would only repeat a statement made by the U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez that pakistan and Afghanistan could come to an agreement in the next round of talks.

CONDOLENCES MESSAGE SENT ON HARBIN EXPLOSION

LD171851 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1840 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, 17 Mar (TASS) -- The USSR Council of Ministers has sent Zhao Ziyang, premier of the PRC State Council, a telegram of condolences connected with the 15 March explosion at the Harbin textile mill which resulted in casualties. The message contains a request to convey sincere condolences to the families and friends of those who perished.

U.S. MARINE CORPS COMMANDANT ARRIVES IN BEIJING

LD141248 Moscow TASS in English 1225 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] New York March 14 TASS -- U.S. Marine Corps Commandant General P.X. Kelley arrived in the Chinese capital Saturday [14 March] at the invitation of the Navy commander of the People's Liberation Army of China, the AP agency reported from Beijing.

The AP said that with the arrival of P. Kelley in Beijing, the PRC has been visited by practically all members of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Meets With Yang Dezhi

OW171101 Moscow in Mandarin to China 1600 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Yang Dezhi, chief of the Chinese General Staff, met with P.X. Kelley, the visiting commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, and his entourage in Beijing 16 March.

According to XINHUA, the two sides stated that Kelley's visit will help promote expanded relations between the two countries' armed forces.

The Marine commandant arrived in China on 14 March at the invitation of Liu Huaqing, commander of the Chinese Navy, who had a meeting with Kelley the same day.

WATERWAYS SHIPPPING PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH PRC

LD171458 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] The latest session of the mixed USSR-PRC commission on shipping in the border zone rivers of the Amur Basin has taken place in Blagevoshchensk. The sides discussed managing shipping and agreed to a considerable amount of route maintenance [putevyye raboty], which will improve shipping conditions in border waterways. A corresponding protocol has been signed.

EXPERTS INTERVIEWED ON PRC BORDER RIVER USE

OW180211 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to China 0400 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] A protocol, summing up the results of a meeting between Soviet and Chinese experts on a plan for comprehensive utilization of water resources of the Argun and Amur Rivers and the Heilongjiang border stretches, was signed in Moscow on 16 March. The meeting held in Moscow from 9 through 16 March, was conducted within the framework of the Soviet-Chinese commission formulating the plan, which was set up between the two governments last November. After the meeting, our station reporter interviewed (Zhao Chuanshao), leader of the Chinese delegation and head of the Foreign Liaison Section of the Chinese Ministry of Water Resources and Power.

On the significance of the meeting between Soviet and Chinese experts, (Zhao Chuanshao) said: In the 1950's, the Soviet Union and China worked together in this field. The current meeting marks an important step in resuming this work, and it is of great significance. The tremendous work we plan to carry out in joint utilization of the Heilongjiang and the Argun River will be conducive to Chinese-USSR economic cooperation. The work has just started, and of course, much needs to be done.

The Chinese delegation leader emphatically pointed out: There exist excellent working relations between Chinese Ministry of Water Resources and the Soviet Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources. The Chinese experts have received a warm reception from the Soviet side during their stay in the Soviet Union. We are very happy to have met Soviet experts, who cooperated with us as early as the 1950's.

Our station reporter also interviewed a leading Soviet expert, (Ninshinen). He said: Soviet-Chinese cooperation in joint utilization of the Amur and Argun Rivers' water resources basically involves such areas as water conservancy, flood prevention, irrigation, shipping, environmental protection, and fishery. One of the major projects is for water conservancy. During the working meeting betwen Soviet and Chinese experts, we worked out a concrete plan to conduct a joint survey of the Amur River's water resources between June and July this year. We also reached agreement on a series of measures on practical work. In short, a sound foundation has been laid for joint utilization of water resources on the Amur and Argun Rivers' border stretches. In conclusion, (Ninshinen) stressed that cooperation based on mutual benefit would ultimately be in the interest of peaceful construction and good-neighborly and friendly relations between the Soviet Union and China.

BEIJING RIBAO CITED ON 1987 PRC-MPR TRADE ACCORD

OW171425 Moscow in Mandarin to China 0200 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] According to the 16 March edition of China's BEIJING RIBAO, the recently signed 1987 Sino-Mongolian trade agreement stipulates that the trade volume between the two countries for 1987 will be double that in 1985. Mongolia will export paper and fiber products, carpets, and scrap iron to China. China will export textiles, garments, dairy products, and other commodities to Mongolia.

DEVELOPMENT AID TO AFGHANISTAN VIEWED

LD111620 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] Our correspondent Boris Savodyan reports from Kabul: One of the Afghan Government's most important actions under the policy of national reconciliation is ensuring the nation's steady social and economic development and raising the population's standard of living. In resolving these tasks, great assistance is being given to Afghanistan by our country. This assistance, which comprises about three-quarters of all aid from other nations and international organizations, is planned for use within the framework of Afghanistan's First 5-Year Plan for social and economic development.

With the Soviet Union's assistance, many very important installations will be set up in virtually all sectors of the national economy. Bilateral trade will become more balanced, including border trade. The volume of trade relations between Soviet organizations and Afghan employers will increase. The establishment of mixed Afghan-Soviet enterprises will be pursued more vigorously. An agreement to establish two such enterprises -- (Avtorg) and (Avtenta) -- with participation of the DRA's trade and industrial chambers and the private sector was recently signed in Kabul. Sixty percent of the enterprises' shares belong to the DRA and the remainder to Soviet foreign trade organizations.

The (Avtorg) joint-stock company will be engaged in the electrical domestic goods trade, domestic chemical products, cultural and domestic products, household articles, haberdashery, and other durable consumer goods. The Avtenta joint-stock company will trade in television sets, reel equipment, cars, and other industrial goods. These joint-stock companies will also supply traditional Afghan export goods to the Soviet Union.

The signing of the agreement is seen here as a new manifestation of solidarity on the part of the Soviet Union at a difficult time for Afghanistan. Here there is confidence that the indissoluble friendship and cooperation between our countries and peoples will continue to strengthen and develop.

INDIA'S GANDHI RECEIVES VISITING SCIENTISTS

LD180957 Moscow TASS in English 0825 17 Mar 87

[Text] Jammu March 18 TASS -- TASS correspondent Vladimir Baydashin reports:

Prime Minister of India Rajiv Gandhi, now staying here, has received the participants in the current meeting of leading Soviet and Indian scientists, discussing the programme of long-term cooperation in science and technology between the two countries in the light of the accords reached in the course of the official friendly visit to India by General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev.

The dimensions of Indian-Soviet cooperation in science look great and very interesting, Rajiv Gandhi said in an interview to the TASS correspondent. What has begun during the visit of the Soviet leader, and is being filled with concrete content now that such a representative delegation of Soviet scientists, led by President of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR Academician Guriy Marchuk, are visiting India, is the foundation of really strong relations between India and the Soviet Union. We are looking forward to the future of Soviet-Indian scientific cooperation. It has really huge possibilities, the prime minister stressed.

SHEVARDNADZE'S INDOCHINA VISIT ASSESSED

OW171115 Moscow International Service in Vietnamese 1300 16 Mar 87

[Lensov commentary]

[Text] Dear friends: As you know, many issues have been widely discussed in Hanoi, Vientiane, and Phnom Penh. The talks and leaders of the three fratenal Indochinese countries have revealed their unanimous evaluation of prospects for socialist construction and methods to accelerate our countries' socioeconomic development. The leaders of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia took the opportunity to stress the importance and significance of the 27th CPSU Congress and the January plenary session of the CPSU Central Committee. As pointed out by Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, this session specified ways to renovate all aspects of Soviet society, and this is also of great significance for fraternal socialist countries.

Comrade Shevardnadze's tour has revealed our four countries' unanimity of views on all urgent international and regional issues. I would like to stress that in Hanoi, Vientiane, and Phnom Penh the Soviet side highly valued the three Indochinese countries fraternal alliance. The Soviet Union is well aware that this alliance has been forged in the struggle against foreign aggressors who have intimated them over past decades as well as today. The revolutionary combatants of the three Indochinese countries operated together within the ranks of the Indochinese Communist Party founded by President Ho Chi Minh. This party's objectives and ideals reflected aspirations of the popular masses of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.

In the fierce and sacred strugle against imperialism, the militant alliance of the three Indochinese countries has truly assumed an all-people character. It constitutes one of the decisive factors for victory of the patriotic combatants' struggle for freedom and independence. This militant alliance also serves as a basis for saving the Cambodian people from national destruction brought about by the Pol Pot clique.

Today, the effectiveness of the Vietnamese-Lao-Cambodian alliance affects all socioeconomic activities of the three Indochinese countries. This alliance constitutes an important factor for peace and stability in Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region as a whole.

The Soviet Union highly values the three Indochinese countries' constructive line and realistic activities aimed at settling the Cambodian issue. It fully sympathizes with and supports their efforts to promote a political dialogue with the ASEAN nations with a view to turning Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, good neighborliness, and cooperation.

On his tour of the three Indochinese countries, Comrade Shevardnadze stressed that the Soviet Union will fully support the three fraternal countries line of developing overall cooperation, solidarity, and mutual assistance as well as creating a wholesome regional atmosphere.

PRAVDA DEPUTY EDITOR ON NZ FOREIGN POLICY

HK170704 Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 9 Mar 87 p 3

[Text] New Zealand can best play a role on the international stage by determining and sticking to its true national interests, says Mr Vsevolod Ovchinnikov, a deputy editor of the Soviet Communist Party newspaper PRAVDA.

"New Zealand must be New Zealand," he says. "What I mean is that to be outside the rivalry of big outside powers is for the benefit of all the nations in the South Pacific."

He believes that in the present state of the world it is most important that each nation should have the right to choose its own foreign policy, friends and allies.

Mr Ovchinnikov, whose newspaper has a daily circulation of about 13 million, came to the South Pacific for the visit of the Soviet foreign minister, Mr Shevardnadze, to Australia. He has been in New Zealand for the past few days and will leave today.

He says that the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, in his speech in Vladivostok last July, reminded the world that the Soviet Union was a Pacific country. He also invited a common effort to work out something like a code of behaviour for the region.

It was not to be a pact or an alliance -- just a set of mutually acceptable principles that would reflect the interests of every nation participating in the effort.

"We emphasize that we do not have any ready-made recipe or magic key to solve the problems of Asia and the Pacific.

"What we want is the South Pacific to be a very peaceful area. We think now that it is a very good example for the other regions of the world, and if it is outside the military rivalry of any outside power, so much the better."

Of foreign military bases in the Pacific, Mr Ovchinnikov says that in principle the Soviet Union stands for the liquidation of all military bases on foreign territories.

"But we recognize that the question of eliminating them is most difficult, and if we move to comprehensive Asian and Pacific security it would be difficult to start with that particular point.

"We have to start with easier things, such as how we can cooperate in fighting terrorism on the sea and air routes over the Indian and Pacific Oceans, or in solving some ecological problems and in finding ways to preserve fishery resources."

Mr Ovchinnikov says New Zealand is a good example of how a country that is not a superpower, nor even a big power, can play an important part in the campaign for the survival of mankind. Its anti-nuclear policy is highly appreciated in the Philippines, Japan and Indonesia, and in his own country.

"Even in Eastern Europe I think the international image of New Zealand has greatly improved.

"While on holiday in Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria I was often asked whether I had been to New Zealand and what I thought of Prime Minister Lange and his anti-nuclear policy, of possible pressures from outside, and of the chances of the Labour Government's being re-elected.

"So New Zealand is no longer some forgotten corner of the world."

Mr Ovchinnikov is a sinologist, with a special interest in Chinese philosophy and literature. He has worked for seven years in China and for seven years in Japan, and for five years he was London bureau chief of Pravda.

He has written 15 books on those countries.

Mr Ovchinnikov's name means "sheepskin-maker" in the Russian language.

"I am very proud to admit that fact in this country," he says. "In Japan I have to keep it secret. In Japan people who deal with the skins of animals are untouchables.

"I am going to buy some sheepskins here. They are the best souvenirs one can have with a name like mine."

BIRYUKOVA-LED DELEGATION ARRIVES IN HANOI 17 MAR

LD171445 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] At the invitation of the Central Committee of the Vietnamese Communist Party [CPV], a CPSU delegation headed by Comrade Biryukova, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, today arrived in Hanoi to familiarize itself with the CPV's experience of party work. At the airport the delegation was met by Do Muoi, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau and deputy chairman of Vietnam's Council of Ministers, and by other officials. USSR Ambassador in Vietnam Kachin was among the welcoming party.

SHEVARDNADZE RECEIVES DEPARTING SRV ENVOY

LD171941 Moscow TASS in English 1919 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 17 TASS -- Eduard Shevardnadze, minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, received today Dinh Nho Liem, ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the USSR, in connection with his final departure for home.

During a conversation held in a warm and friendly atmosphere the sides expressed satisfaction over the development of all-round relations between the two fraternal parties and countries based on the firm principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism, sealed by the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the USSR and Vietnam. Both sides expressed determination to further promote in every way the consolidation of unity and cohesion of countries of the socialist community, to enhance cooperation of fraternal countries in the struggle for peace and security in the Asian-Pacific region, for the establishment of good neighborly relations among all the peoples inhabiting it.

Awarded by Gromyko

LD171939 Moscow TASS in English 1922 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 17 TASS -- "Relations between the U.S.S.R. and Vietnam are becoming richer in content and developing steadily," said Andrey Gromyko, president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

He made a speech today at the ceremony of presentation of the Soviet Peoples' Friendship Order to Dinh Nho Liem, ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the U.S.S.R. The ambassador completes his term of service in the Soviet Union and is returning home.

"The Soviet Union will continue to pursue a policy of peace and friendship among nations firmly and consistently. This applies to all regions of the world," Andrey Gromyko emphasized. "In this respect we are acting at one with the fraternal Warsaw Treaty countries and other socialist states."

Andrey Gromyko positively appraised Vietnam's desire to maintain good relations with China, Thailand and other neighboring countries.

SRV'S NGUYEN CO THACH ON SOVIET PEACE INITIATIVE

LD181304 Moscow TASS in English 1158 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi March 18 TASS -- (?"The Communist Party of) Vietnam, the Government and people of Vietnam [word indistinct] support the set of Soviet peace initiatives contained in the Vladivostok speech by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev". This was stated here by Nguyen Co Thach, member of the Political Bureau of the CPV Central Committee, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

He stressed that the Soviet proposals are directed at creating a nuclear-free world and a comprehensive system of international security. Vietnam will actively work for the fullfilment of these initiatives in the interests of ensuring peace and stability in Southeast Asia. "Vietnam regards the strengthening of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union as one of its central foreign policy tasks", Nguyen Co Thach said.

PRAVDA EXPLAINS HONECKER STANCE ON FRG RELATIONS

PM171011 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Mar 87 First Edition p 5

[V. Menshikov article under the rubic "We Reply to the Reader": "Independent, Sovereign;" first two paragraphs are reader's letter]

[Text] Recently the West German bourgeois mass news media, including the Deutsche Welle radio station, have been intensively manipulating the theme of what they call "German-German relations," which concern the FRG and the GDR. I should like to find out: How do our friends in the first worker-peasant state on German soil regard the present state of neighborliness between these two states, prospects for the development of relations between the socialist GDR and the capitalist FRG, and their impact on the political climate in Europe.

Yu. Vasilyev, Leningrad

A detailed reply to that question can be obtained by turning to the speech by E. Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, at the conference the SED Central Committee Secretariat held with the SED district committee secretaries recently in the GDR capital, Berlin. It was devoted to party organizations' tasks to further implement the 11th SED Congress decisions. In his report on this question the GDR leader also paid considerable attention to relations between the GDR and the FRG.

E. Honecker, in particular, stated that the results of the January elections to the FRG Bundestag were marked by the worst results for the CDU [Christian Democratic Union] since 1949. (As is known, the conservative CDU/CSU [Christian Social Union] bloc lost 2 million votes -- V.M.) These results are evidence that the slander campaign against the GDR has not benefited the CDU. As for prospects for relations between the GDR and FRG, the speaker continued, then the GDR has never left any doubt about the fact that it does not make its readiness for dialogue conditional on the makeup of the government in Bonn. We expect, he said, the government in Bonn to stick to its repeatedly confirmed pledge to do everything to ensure that the threat of war never again originates from German soil, only a policy of peace. Moreover, the GDR leader noted, the joint statement of 12 March 1983 which he made with the FRG chancellor not only does not lose its meaning, it carries even greater weight. The inviolability of borders and respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all states in Europe within their present borders serve as the basic condition of peace.

A businesslike approach, predictability, and consideration of both sides' legitimate interests, the speaker noted, are essential for further progress in relations between the GDR and the FRG. The point of departure can only be that the GDR and the FRG are two sovereign states independent of each other with different social structures and belonging to different alliances. This requires that the FRG treat the GDR like all its neighboring states. The FRG must finally bid farewell to the "duty of guardianship of all Germans" which it has arbitrarily arrogated to itself.

In his speech, which, as NEUES DEUTSCHLAND noted, was received by GDR citizens with great interest and approval, the SED Central Committee general secretary and GDR State Council chairman resolutely condemned the slander campaign unleashed in the FRG against the SED and the GDR regarding the alleged violation of human rights in the socialist countries.

Characterizing this campaign, which is hostile to peaceful coexistence, E. Honecker said: All means of false propaganda are being used. With the aim of diverting attention from imperialism's ailments and crimes and misleading the masses, all the moth-eaten nationalist and revanchist rags are being dusted off. Those who use them have clearly lost their sense of historic truth and reality. The danger is that they are forming a picture of history, particularly for FRG citizens, which belittles the crimes of Nazism and deliberately arouses antisocialist instincts.

E. Honecker sent a message to FRG Chancellor H. Kohl in connection with the new Soviet peace initiative on eliminating medium-range missiles in Europe. The document stresses the historic chance presented by M.S. Gorbachev's proposal. To support the proposal put forward by the USSR so that an agreement is concluded without delay on eliminating all Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe -- that is the main thrust of the appeal which the GDR has sent to the FRG.

DEPUTY PREMIERS MEET WITH HUNGARY'S BERECZ

PM171404 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Mar 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report under general heading "Talks Held"]

[Text] Talks took place 9-10 March between A.K. Antonov, Yu.D. Maslyukov, and I.S. Silayev, deputy chairmen of the USSR Council of Ministers, and F. Berecz, deputy chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers. Questions of Soviet-Hungarian economic, scientific, and technical cooperation were discussed.

LATVIAN CPSU DELEGATION RECEIVED BY MSZMP OFFICIALS

PM171551 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report under general heading: "Interparty Ties"]

[Text] A delegation of CPSU party workers headed by V.P. Sobolev, second secretary of the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee, was in the Hungarian People's Republic 9-14 March in accordance with the plan for CPSU-MSZMP interparty ties. It studied the MSZMP's experience in deepening and developing socialist democracy and improving the activity of organs of people's power and mass working people's organizations.

The delegation was received by I. Sarlos, member of the MSZMP Central Committee Politburo and president of Hungary's National Assembly, and had a conversation with I. Horvath, secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee.

CPCZ'S JAKES CITED ON NEED TO COOPERATE WITH USSR

PM101013 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Mar 87 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Important Boost"]

[Text] Prague, 7 Mar -- The CSSR Government and the people of Czechoslovakia welcome and fully support the new Soviet initiative proposed in the 28 February statement by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. [paragraph continues]

This was stated by M. Jakes, member of the Presidium and secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, when addressing the party economic aktiv in Prague.

People in Czechoslovakia are following with enormous interest and attention the efforts of the Soviet Union and its Communist Party to pursue an assertive peace policy aimed at averting nuclear catastrophe and achieving disarmament.

The speaker stressed that Soviet Communists' experience has always served as an important boost for the CSSR. At the 17th CPCZ Congress we drew up our strategy for speeding up economic and social development inspired by the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress.

The decisions of the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum are of extremely great importance for Czechoslovakia. We see them, noted M. Jakes, as making a revolutionary and truly historic contribution to implementing the tasks of socialist building. The plenum material and the report to it by M.S. Gorbachev found a large response and full support in Czechoslovakia. Czechoslovak Communists also want to draw practical conclusions for themselves from the plenum decisions. The most pressing conclusion is the need for accelerated development of the principles of restructuring the economic mechanism and preparation of a law on state enterprises.

We must, the speaker said, approach the implementation of the 17th CPCZ Congress directives with greater boldness, determination, and consistency. We are seeking above all extensive development of socialist democracy and increasing involvement by working people in management. Work with cadres must also meet these requirements.

The building of socialism in Czechoslovakia is inextricably linked with strengthening economic, scientific, and technological cooperation with CEMA countries, above all the Soviet Union. We want to jointly develop socialism, resolutely remove all obstacles from its path, and concert our efforts in the interests of the peoples of both countries to strengthen peace. We continue to want to develop all-around cooperation with the USSR on the basis of extensive production-sharing and specialization, the establishment of direct ties among enterprises and organizations, and the creation of joint enterprises, M. Jakes observed.

'FRANK AND FRIENDLY' TALKS HELD WITH CPCZ GROUP

PM171141 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report under general heading "Interparty Ties"]

[Text] A CPCZ delegation headed by J. Polednik, secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, was in the Soviet Union 9-13 March in accordance with the plan for CPSU-CPCZ interparty ties.

The delegation was received by G.P. Razumovskiy, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. In the course of the frank and friendly conversation which took place, the Czechoslovak comrades were briefed on the results of the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum and on the party leadership of local soviets and public organizations under the conditions of restructuring.

The Czechoslovak comrades had meetings and conversations in the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee, party organs and organizations in the republic, and the Moscow Gorispolkom.

CSSR ambassador to the USSR M. Zavadil took part in the conversations.

SFRY TRADE PROTOCOL TO IMPROVE COOPERATION

LD081400 Moscow in Serbo-Croatian to Yugoslavia 0350 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Text] As has been already reported, a protocol has been signed in Belgrade on trade turnover during the current year between the USSR and Yugoslavia. The document provides for a 5-percent increase in the volume of reciprocal deliveries compared with last year and a broadening of their range including in machinery, equipment, transport means, fuel, energy and raw material products, and consumer goods.

Here is commentator Vladimir Pasko.

[Pasko] Whereas the CEMA countries now account for over 40 percent of Yugoslavia's foreign trade, the Soviet Union's share in this is very nearly 60 percent. Yugoslavia supplies to the Soviet Union almost a third of all its export output -- mainly machinery, equipment, and consumer goods -- and receives in exchange from us the raw and other materials it requires.

An illustration of the level of economic and scientific-technical cooperation between the two countries are the hundreds of large-scale projects that have been built in Yugoslavia with Soviet assistance. They include metallurgical combines, thermal power stations, and enterprises in the sphere of petrochemicals, machine-building, and the agro-industrial complex.

Commercial and economic relations between the two countries have reached an undoubtedly high level. During the current 5-year period, the sides have agreed to increase the volume of mutual turnover to $37 billion. At the same time, as specialists are noting the potential for increasing trade-turnover by further expanding traditional trade is in mainly exhausted. They see the reserves for expanding economic cooperation in long-term production links on the basis of specialization and joint production.

We do have experience of such cooperation. Joint operations are successfully being implemented in the production of Lada cars, KAMAZ trucks, and rototillers. In the last 5-year period, we exchanged jointly produced output to the value of $1 billion. This is an impressive amount, but the potential is incomparably greater. The share of jointly produced goods in the general bilateral trade volume now amounts to a little over 3 percent.

In Moscow last year, talks were held between delegations of the CPSU and the LCY. The talks created the political prerequisites for a further stable increase in Soviet-Yugoslav relations. They also discussed certain specific questions regarding bilateral cooperation. The sides expressed a readiness to continue to develop higher forms of economic relations such as long-term industrial coproduction and specialization and joint investment in the creation of joint enterprises.

The accord on a further increase in the volume of reciprocal deliveries provides grounds for saying that the sides intend to advance undeviatingly toward their planned goal. The protocol signed in Belgrade will serve to further improve the cooperation between our countries and to develop industrial coproduction between the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

WEINBERGER SILENT ON F-16 BOMBERS IN SPAIN

LD171506 Moscow TASS in English 1436 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Madrid March 17 TASS -- U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger has wound up his visit to Spain. He conducted talks with Juan Carlos, king of Spain, Felipe Gonzalez, chairman of government, and Narciso Serra, defence minister. The Pentagon chief discussed with Spanish officials the issue of the U.S. military facilities in Spain.

At a Madrid news conference upon the results of the negotiations, Weinberger passed over in silence the question on whether he succeeded in settling the problem of keeping 72 U.S. F-16 fighter bombers at a base in Torrejon de Ardoz near Madrid.

The negotiations on the issue of bringing down U.S. military presence in Spain have been going on for eight months now. Spain pushes for getting the United States to withdraw all F-16 aircraft and 4,500 servicemen from the base in Torrejon de Ardoz and also in-flight refuelers from the base in Zaragoza.

Washington actually tries to steer matters to purely symbolic reductions in the U.S. military personnel. During the referendum the Spanish Government undertook to bring down significantly U.S. military presence as a key condition for Spain's continued NATO membership. In Madrid they state that if Washington does not agree to such reductions, Spain will not extend the Spanish-U.S. agreement on friendship, defence and cooperation, whose term expires in 1988.

It is supposed that the talks on the fate of the U.S. bases in Spain will be continued in Washington early in April. Weinberger left Madrid for Turkey.

U.S. Pressure for 'Presence'

LD161726 Moscow TASS in English 1720 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 16 TASS -- Political news analyst Valeriy Vavilov writes:

U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger arrived in Spain on an official visit. He will hold talks with Felipe Gonzalez, head of government, and Narcis Serra, defence minister, on the future of U.S. military bases on Spanish soil.

The Spanish Government has been conducting negotiations for seven months now, pushing for a reduction in the military presence of U.S. troops in Spain. It will be recalled that three U.S. airforce bases in Torrejon, Saragossa, and Moron, the U.S. naval base in Rota, and seven other military facilities in various parts of the country, where the U.S. personnel numbering some 14,000 is stationed, have been built over the years of U.S.-Spanish military cooperation.

Employing the myth of a "Soviet threat", in Washington they make attempts to convince Spanish leaders that it is inexpedient to cut U.S. military presence in Spain so as not to weaken West's defence. This move, as Weinberger put it, will allegedly place in jeopardy the security interests of the United States and its NATO allies.

Washington disregards the Spanish people's wish, expressed by it during the nationwide referendum on Spain's NATO membership, to get rid of the U.S. military bases. Raising objections to the complete withdrawal of 72 U.S. F-16 fighter-bombers from the Torrejon base and in-flight refuellers from the Saragossa base, the U.S. Government seeks to keep for itself the right to use this aircraft as it sees fit to "defend the NATO southern flank".

To keep its military presence in Spain, Washington exerts direct military pressure and practices economic blackmail. Promises are made to raise the pay for the lease of bases, to extend the framework of cooperation and sign new contracts. Simultaneously, threats are issued to trim allocations under the U.S. aid programme in case Spaniards remain unyielding.

The previous rounds of talks between Spain and the United States towards bringing down U.S. military presence sparked off serious divergencies due to the stance of the United States which is bent on steering matters to re-deploying part of its troops from some bases in Spain to others and to purely symbolic reductions in the number of its military personnel, leaving intact the general structure of its military facilities in that country.

This does not suit Spain which reaffirmed that it would commply in the future as well with the assumed commitments not to place and not to keep nuclear weapons in its territory, not to allow the transportation via Spain of mass annihilation systems and not to join the military structure of the North Atlantic alliance.

It is but natural that in opposing nuclear weapons in its soil, Spaniards demand that the U.S. military bases, which have even now U.S. nuclear-capable aircraft, be dismantled. Given the present standard of military hardware and the "miniaturization" of nuclear weapons, the contentions that U.S. bases do not have such weapons can hardly convince anyone now. Spaniards' apprehensions are logical, their demands are just.

DIFFERENCES PERSIST AFTER FRANCO-SPANISH SUMMIT

PM171605 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Mar 87 First Edition p 5

[Vladimir Bolshakov "Commentator's Column": "The Pyrenees Survived"]

[Text] Paris -- The first Franco-Spanish summit meeting, held a few days ago and henceforth to be repeated annually, aroused a broad response on both sides of the Pyrenees. Its exceptional nature is indicated particularly by the list of participants. The French delegation which arrived in Madrid was headed by President F. Mitterrand and Prime Minister J. Chirac and consisted of 34 officials, including 7 ministers. Taking part in the meeting on the Spanish side were King Juan Carlos I of Spain, Prime Minister F. Gonzalez, and virtually his entire cabinet. Judging by the participants' opinion, the talks proceeded so successfuly that President Mitterrand even declared: "The Pyrenees no longer separate Spain and France."

But optimism like this cannot conceal the contradictions which cast an increasingly large shadow over Franco-Spanish relations.

Spanish and French newspapers recall in this context that France opposed Spain's entry into the "Common Market," even at the start of F. Mitterrand's Presidency. Some time ago J. Chirac promised that, if the right-wing parties came to power, he would review the terms of the treaty on Spain's entry into the EEC, as this treaty "hits the interests of French farmers." [paragraph continues]

The Madrid talks proved that friction on the question of Spain's membership in the Common Market still exists between the French leaders, let alone with their neighbor across the Pyrenees.

Franco-Spanish military interests proved considerably closer. Spain is now striving to pursue a more independent policy in relations with the United States, primarily on the problem of U.S. bases in its territory. France is seeking its allies' support for its idea of creating a "pan-European defense" within the framework of the Western European Union, which Spain intends to join. Moreover, Paris is offering Madrid an original option for gaining "independence" from the United States in the military sphere -- to buy French instead of U.S. arms, and specifically the new Rafale fighter-bomber, the AMX-30 tank, and so on. But while accepting the invitation, the Spaniards are in no hurry to make specific pledges.

Thus the Madrid talks, even though they affirmed the coincidence of a number of the two countries' positions, have by no means resolved -- nor could they have resolved -- all the problems existing between them. In view of this, it looks as if the Pyrenees will remain in place for a long time. And Franco-Spanish differences, in addition to the mountains separating the two countries, remain.

MURAKHOVSKIY'S ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE OUTLINED

PM171243 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 15 Mar 87 p 3

[TASS report: "Visit to France"]

[Text] Paris, 14 Mar -- A Soviet delegation headed by V.S. Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee, visited France 8-14 March this year.

During talks with French Agriculture Minister F. Guillaume, a positive assessment was made of bilateral cooperation in the sphere of agro-industrial production. The main directions for deepening and broadening economic, scientific, and technical ties in agriculture and the food industry were discussed.

Talks were also held with J.-B. Raimond, foreign minister of the French Republic.

At meetings with French business circles specific questions of the development of cooperation in the spheres of plant growing and livestock raising, the processing and storage of agricultural produce, the chemicalization of arable farming, and agro-industrial machine building were examined.

The French side was briefed on the great creative work being done to restructure all spheres of Soviet society and to accelerate socioeconomic development. Special attention was paid to strengthening of the Soviet agro-industrial complex, improvement of foreign economic ties, and potential being opened up in that field for mutually advantageous Soviet-French cooperation, particularly the creation of joint enterprises on USSR territory.

Members of the Soviet delegation visited the International Agricultural Exhibition and the International Salon of Agricultural Machinery, went to a number of enterprises which process agricultural products and produce pesticides and mixed feed, and familiarized themselves with the work of selection and seed-growing firms and a number of machine-building enterprises.

A Soviet-French intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the plant protection sphere was signed during the stay.

The head of the Soviet delegation addressed a press conference for representatives of the French and foreign mass media. He spoke, in particular, of the state of and the prospects for the development of agriculture and the food sectors of industry in the Soviet Union and of the specific measures being implemented in the light of the 27th CPSU Congress decisions to increase food production and answered numerous questions from journalists.

The delegation left for home today. It was seen off at the airport by Minister Delegate R. Pandraud and Ya.P. Ryabov, USSR ambassador to France. The send-off party also included Y. Pagniez, French ambassador to the USSR.

V. WALTERS PROMPTED PORTUGUESE BAN ON ESTONIA VISIT

LD172129 Moscow TASS in English 2106 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Lisbon March 17 TASS -- Debate on the results of a visit of a Portuguese parliamentary delegation to the Soviet Union took place today in the Assembly of the Republic. It was held on the demand of Fernando do Amaral in connection with a public statement of the Portuguese Government to the effect that it had not been desirable for the delegation to visit the Soviet Republic of Estonia. The statement was made during the stay of the delegation in the USSR.

Immediately after his return from Moscow, Fernando do Amaral who headed the delegation made a statement in which he pointed out that by its unconsidered actions and the lack of a feeling of statesmanship the government had questioned the dignity of the Assembly of the Republic, of its chairman and of the parliamentary delegation and had created a delicate situation in relations between the two countries.

Fernando do Amaral pointed out that the government had been informed beforehand of a program of the visit. However, it did not give any recommendations limiting visits to some or other Soviet republic. Even Pires Miranda, minister of foreign affairs of Portugal, had to admit it in an interview with the local television.

At the same time, the Portuguese press points out that the intrigues of the ruling cabinet of Anibal Cavaco Silva around the visit to Estonia began after Vernon Walters, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Organization, spoke at a press conference in Lisbon on March 9, this year, and mentioned this invented problem. In this way he brought pressure to bear on the Portuguese authorities, which hurried to forbid their parliamentarians to visit Estonia.

POPE RECEIVES MOSCOW CIRCUS PERFORMERS

PM171449 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Meeting With Masters of the Circus"]

[Text] Rome, 15 March -- In the Vatican John Paul II, head of the Roman Catholic Church, has received performers from the Moscow Circus who are in Italy on tour.

Addressing the masters of the Soviet circus, ANSA says, the pope noted that "people are hurrying to your shows" to satisfy a lively cultural interest. By offering people healthy, cultural entertainment, John Paul said, you arouse peace-loving feelings which in our world, which is sometimes so complicated, difficult, and cruel, are particularly appreciated.

AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON EUROMISSILES

LD081831 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 8 Mar 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast; unidentified correspondent's interview with A. Mock, Austrian vice chancellor and foreign minister; date and place not specified, Mock, identified by caption, speaking in German with superimposed Russian translation; video shows interview taking place in a room -- recorded]

[Text] [Mock] I think General Secretary Gorbachev's proposal makes a positive contribution toward reaching a disarmament agreement in general, precisely because it speaks of separating the problem of eliminating medium-range missiles in Europe from the package of general disarmament issues. This will facilitate the talks. I consider that every step toward disarmament, whether in the sphere of nuclear or nonnuclear weapons, should be implemented on the principle of reciprocity, and it should be obligatory that every step leads to a reduction of the level of military confrontation. There are two reasons for this: Only equality will give security to big and small countries, just as only equality and reciprocity will make it possible to use the liberated financial resources for the development of the civilian economy.

[Correspondent] What will Austria's policy be in regard to elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe?

[Mock] We will support disarmament proposals within the context of the Helsinki process and outside it, if they lead to positive results.

EUROPEAN PEOPLE'S PARTY GROUP ARRIVES IN MOSCOW

LD171155 Moscow TASS in English 1143 GMT 17 Mar

[Text] Moscow March 17 TASS -- A delegation of the European People's Party group at the Europarliament led by its chairman Egon Klepsch, member of the board of West Germany's Christian Democratic Union, has arrived in Moscow at the invitation of the Soviet Parliamentary Group and the Soviet Committee for European Security and Cooperation.

They met today with a delegation of the Soviet Committee for European Security and Cooperation which spelled out the position of the Soviet public on European issues; namely those connected with ensuring stable security on the continent and strengthening mutual advantageous trade and economic cooperation. The attention of the guests was drawn to the Soviet peace initiative aimed at eliminating Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe.

On the same day the delegation met with a group of Soviet experts to discuss safety at nuclear power stations.

Gerasimov Praises Visit

LD171403 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1337 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, 17 Mar (TASS) -- The arrival in Moscow on Monday of a delegation of the European People's Party group at the Europarliament led by its chairman, Egon Alfred Klepsch of the FRG, begins the development of parliamentary contacts between the Europarliament and the USSR Supreme Soviet, said Gennadiy Gerasimov, head of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Department. Speaking today at a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists, he noted the importance of such exchanges of views and stressed that a continued positive development in contacts between the Europarliament and the USSR Supreme Soviet would contribute to the creation and strengthening of the political atmosphere for progress in establishing official relations between CEMA and the EEC and between the USSR and the EEC.

Group Meets With CEMA's Sychev

LD172118 Moscow TASS in English 2020 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 17 TASS -- "The CMEA countries are seeking to develop actively international trade and economic cooperation, to remove discriminatory barriers in its way and to prevent the use of economic relations as a tool of political pressure," CMEA secretary Vyacheslav Sychev said during a meeting held today with a delegation of the group of the European People's Party of the European Parliament. The delegation arrived in Moscow at the invitation of the USSR Parliamentary Group and the Soviet Committee for European Security and Cooperation.

Vyacheslav Sychev noted that the EEC states were leading partners of the CMEA countries among developed Western states. The socialist countries buy from them a lot of industrial goods. Selling them their products, the CMEA countries meet a considerable share of their import requirements. The EEC countries use over 500 Soviet licences and more than 100 licenses from other CMEA countries. Orders from the CMEA countries provide jobs for about two million workers in the EEC countries.

"The establishment of official relations and development of cooperation between the CMEA and the EEC would also create more favourable conditions for the development of relations between individual socialist and the EEC countries," pointed out Vyacheslav Sychev.

He noted that realization of pan-European projects, for instance, the environmental control, development of science and engineering, standardization, transport, the power industry, statistics and long-term economic forecasting could be a sphere for practical development of relations between the two international economic organizations.

Group chairman Egon Alfred Klepsch, head of the delegation, said that both sides are interested in cooperation. He favoured drafting and signing a declaration on cooperation between the EEC and the CMEA and signing trade contracts between the EEC and individual socialist countries.

CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES SET WITH TURKEY

LD171204 Moscow TASS in English 1128 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 17 TASS -- The Soviet Union and Turkey signed a programme of cultural and scientific exchanges for 1987-1988 at the USSR Foreign Affairs Ministry today.

The programme envisages cooperation in the field of science, education, culture, the arts, television, exchanges between art collectives, soloists, and arts personalities as well as exhibitions.

U.S. ENVOY TO GREECE CALLED OVER OFFICIALS' REMARKS

LD131429 Moscow TASS in English 1345 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Athens March 13 TASS -- Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias yesterday summoned American Ambassador Robert Keeley and expressed a resolute protest over recent remarks in Congress by highly placed administration officials, including Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, about Greece and Cyprus.

Washington's actions were assessed in Athens as interference in the Greek-Turkish conflict.

It was announced here that the executive of the ruling PASOK [Panhellenic Socialist Movement] party at today's meeting would discuss questions of Gree-American relations in the light of the latest developments.

Cabinet Views U.S. Relations

LD151131 Moscow TASS in English 1041 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Athens March 15 TASS -- On Saturday Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou held a meeting of key ministers of his cabinet where they discussed the state of U.S.-Greek relations. The prime minister emphasized that the relations "are living through a period of difficulties and problems", announced the official government spokesman at the end of the meeting.

Athens, for instance, was utterly dissatisfied with recent unfriendly pronouncements of several U.S. officials, as well as with continued violation of Greek airspace by U.S. warplanes.

Last Friday, for instance, the Greek Air Force intercepted a squadron of U.S. fighters which, as it is pointed out in a report by the Greek Government spokesman, "intruded the zone of the Athens control service without a preliminary notification, violating flight rules", south of Gavdos Island. [passage omitted]

TERRY WAITE 'HELD IN IRANIAN EMBASSY' IN W. BEIRUT

PM171157 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Mar 87 p 9

"Own Information" report under "Sensation" rubric: "So Where Is Terry Waite?"]

[Text] Hostages seized by terrorists in Lebanon are usually kept either in southern Beirut (the Al-Dahiyah district) or in an underground prison in the Al-Biqa' Valley. They are guarded by people who speak both Arabic and Persian. The prison is controlled by pro-Iranian forces.

According to enquiries we have made Terry Waite (see "Hostage Drama" in LITERATURNAYA GAZETA Nos 9-11) is not in Al-Dahiyah or in Al-Biqa'. So where is he? We have managed to discover that Terry Waite is being held [soderzhitsya] in the Iranian Embassy building in West Beirut. And what is he doing there? Is he continuing negotiations on secret deliveries of American weapons to Iran, in spite of the "Irangate" scandal?

PRAVDA NOTES AL-ASAD'S NATIONAL DAY SPEECH

PM170939 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Mar 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Syria's Resolve"]

[Text] Damascus, 9 Mar — The firm resolve of the Syrian people to continue the struggle for total liberation of the Israeli-occupied Arab territories and for a lasting and just peace in the Near East has been reaffirmed by President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria. Addresing a mass rally of the working people of the Syrian capital on Sunday to mark the Syrian Arab Republic's national day, the 24th anniversary of the 8 March revolution, he emphasized that imperialist and Zionist attempts to bring Syria to its knees are doomed. Our country, Al-Asad said, will continue to pursue its chosen path of progress and socialism. This choice was made by the Syrian people.

Syria, the president said, is sincerely striving for the restoration of Lebanon's unity and territorial integrity and supports the struggle of the Lebanese people to completely liberate the country from Israeli occupation.

Hafiz al-Asad reaffirmed Syria's firm and principled stance on the Palestinian problem. We proceed, he said, from the impermissibility of any deals at the expense of the Palestinians' inalienable legitimate rights.

The Syrian president rated highly the present state of Syrian-Soviet relations and expressed confidence that they will continue to develop successfully. He declared Syria's support for the Soviet Union's constructive foreign policy initiatives aimed at strengthening peace and detente and preventing the spread of the arms race to space, which is an asset of all mankind. We call on everyone, Hafiz al-Asad said, to examine the Soviet peace proposals seriously and with the utmost responsiblity. The Syrian leader denounced the U.S. Administration's obstructionist approach to the problems of war and peace.

POLLARD COMMISSION SET UP TO 'WOO' ZIONIST LOBBY

LD121731 Moscow TASS in English 1611 GMT 12 Mar 87

["Love's Not Complete Without a Quarrel -- U.S., Israel" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow March 12 TASS -- TASS commentator Grigoriy Vasilyev writes:

The Israeli Government has announced after long deliberations the formation of a special commission consisting of two members to investigate the case of Jonathan Pollard. The American citizen has been recruited by Israeli intelligence and handed thousands of top secret documents to Tel Aviv.

Pollard, a staff member of U.S. Naval Intelligence, was caught red-handed on the threshold of the Israeli Embassy in Washington in November 1985, tried and sentenced to imprisonment for life.

It was announced in Israel that the commission is to "clarify" the facts connected with the espionage charges and recommend to the government the course of action to take on Israel officials involved in the case.

There is nothing, however, that would need clarifying as the espionage operation in Washington has been sanctioned by the ruling Zionist elite in Tel Aviv, including incumbent Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

This is seen both from facts surfacing since Pollard's arrest and from his own confession at the trial.

It is plain that the Israeli Government had to form this obviously absurd commission, which does not have enough powers, to assuage uneasiness over the scandal touched off in Washington by the Pollard case.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz described Tel Aviv's reaction to the scandal as inadequate. But he also stressed that the U.S.-Israeli relationship formed part of America's vital interests and "we should not shoot ourselves in the leg."

It is clear that the Israeli Government, which has long attempted to dissociate itself from the Pollard case, finally decided to set up the commission also to woo the Zionist lobby in the United States, which has been shocked by the sordid methods employed by Tel Aviv in respect of its strategic ally overseas.

This was not at all the first time Israel used such methods in relation to the United States. Suffice it to recall the incident involving the U.S. spy ship Liberty which kept the Israeli Army supplied with intelligence during the 1967 aggression. Israeli aircraft and torpedo boats sank the ship off the Sinai Peninsula on orders from Tel Aviv which was clearly covering up its tracks. Thirty four crew members died.

The recommendations the commission is to give on what to do with the people who have organized the espionage operation in Washington are not needed either.

Colonel Aviem Sella, who has recruited Pollard, has since been made a general and commander of a major air base in Israel, while a high-ranking intelligence officer Raphael Eitan has found himself at the head of the board of the large Israeli Government corporation Israel Chemicals.

This goes to show that dirty work is rewarded by Israeli ruling quarters immediately and generously.

FURTHER ON SUPREME SOVIET DEPUTIES IN ANGOLA

Delegation Meets Van Dunem

LD171653 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1544 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Luanda, [no month as received] 17 (TASS) -- Afonso van Dunem, member of the Political Bureau, secretary of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party Central Committee, minister of external relations and chairman of the commission on external affairs of the People's Assembly of the People's Republic of Angola [PRA], today received a group of deputies from the USSR Supreme Soviet, headed by P.G. Gilashvili, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, which is in this country. During the conversation there was a frank [otkrovennyy] and useful exchange of views on the problems of mobilizing African states for the struggle to strengthen peace and international security, and also on the situation in the South Africa. The Soviet parliamentarians assured the RPA leadership of unflagging support in the struggle of the Angolan peoples and of the other "Frontline" States, against the aggressive intrigues of international imperialism and the racist Republic of South Africa and in the defense of sovereignty and independence.

Labor Party Officials Meeting

LD171701 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1609 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Luanda 17 Mar (TASS) -- A meeting took place in Luanda today between the group of deputies from the USSR Supreme Soviet, headed by P.G. Gilashvili, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and members of the permanent commission of the People's Assembly of the People's Republic of Angola. Juliao Mateus Paulo and Roberto de Almeida, members of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola [MPLA] Labor Party; Antonio Jacinto, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the MPLA-Labor Party; and Lucio Lara, member of the Central Committee of the MPLA-Labor Party and first secretary of the Republic's People's Assembly, took part. This visit by the group of deputies from the USSR Supreme Soviet, Juliao Mateus Paulo said at the meeting, aids the strengthening of mutual understanding between the Soviet and the Angolan peoples, and the extension of parliamentary ties between the USSR and the PRA. We have the opportunity, he said, to find out more about the great changes taking place in the USSR after the historic 27th CPSU Congress, and about the important steps of the party and the government in all spheres of life in Soviet society.

IZVESTIYA CITES ADAMISHIN MEETING IN ETHIOPIA

PM171433 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Unity of Views"]

[Text] Addis Ababa, 15 Mar -- A.L. Adamishin, special representative of the CPSU Central Committee general secretary and USSR deputy foreign minister, has been received by Mengistu Haile Mariam, Workers Party of Ethiopia Central Committee general secretary and chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council. During the warm and friendly conversation the unity of views of the Soviet Union and socialist Ethiopia on key international problems, including the situation in the Horn of Africa, were once again confirmed.

PAPER REVIEWS ETHIOPIAN ARMY DELEGATION'S VISIT

PM171251 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Mar 87 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "Visit Completed"]

[Text] A delegation of leading political workers from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Socialist Ethiopia headed by Brigadier General Felleke (Yshete), member of the Workers Party of Ethiopia (WPE) Central Committee and first deputy chief of the Main Political Directorate of the Ethiopian Revolutionary Armed Forces, was in the Soviet Union 27 February through 13 March at the invitation of the USSR Ministry of Defense and the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate.

The members of the delegation were acquainted with the work experience of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate regarding the organization of party political work among personnel and had meetings and conversations with Admiral A.I. Sorokin, first deputy chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate, and Lieutenant General D.A. Volkogonov, deputy chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate.

The delegation visited the Belorussian Military District, the V.I. Lenin Military Political Academy, and the K.Ye. Voroshilov Military Academy of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff.

The Ethiopian guests visited the V.I. Lenin Mausoleum and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by the Kremlin wall and were acquainted with places of historical and revolutionary importance in Moscow and Minsk.

The delegation was received by Army General A.D. Lizichev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate. Questions of mutual interest were discussed at the meeting.

The visit proceeded in a warm, friendly atmosphere.

KAMENTSEV RECEIVES ZIMBABWE DELEGATION

LD171855 Moscow TASS in English 1807 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 17 TASS -- Vladimir Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, today received a Zimbabwean delegation led by Maurice Nyagumbo, member of the Politburo of the ZANU-PF Central Committee and minister of political affairs and cooperatives coordination.

During the conversation held in a friendly atmosphere they discussed the present state and prospects of developing Soviet-Zimbabwean economic relations.

NICARAGUA PROTESTS TO U.S. ON ATTACK ON POWER LINE

LD180944 Moscow TASS in English 0821 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Managua March 18 TASS -- The Government of Nicaragua holds the Reagan administration fully responsible for a new act of sabotage perpetrated by the Somozist mercenaries. A note by the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry, distributed here on Tuesday, says that on Monday the contras tried to blow up a pylon of a high-tension power transmission line near Managua. It was only through sheer luck that there were no casualties.

The criminal actions by the Nicaraguan counter-revolutionary formations are possible only owing to the assistance and support that they get from the United States Administration which is promoting a policy of state terrorism and ignores international law, the note says. These actions coincided with statements by White House officials about Washington's intention to further intensify its aggressive policy against Nicaragua and its people.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry strongly protested this new act of subversion by the CIA mercenaries committed with the blessing of the United States authorities. The government of the republic demanded of the Washington Administration an immediate termination of the policy of state terrorism against Nicaragua which contradicts the standards of relations between civilised states. The Foreign Ministry note also demands that Washington fulfil the decisions of the United States World Court in The Hague on the ending of acts of terrorism against peaceful civilians.

COSTA RICA DISAPPROVES OF U.S. USE OF TERRITORY

LD171332 Moscow TASS in English 1250 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Washington March 17 TASS -- The Government of Costa Rica has lodged an official protest with the U.S. Administration over official Washington's attempts to draw that country into an undeclared war the United States is waging aginst revolutionary Nicaragua. A note of protest addressed to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz was sent to the American Embassy in San Jose, the newspaper "WASHINGTON POST" reports.

The note refers to the report of the Tower Commission which investigated into activities of the National Security Council in connection with the Irangate scandal. The report says, among other things, that a plane touched down on a secret landing strip in Costa Rica on June 10 last year, having aboard cargoes intended for Nicaraguan contras.

That happened after the Costa Rican Government repeatedly rejected the U.S. demand that the Costa Rican territory be used in the war against Nicaragua and ordered that the secret landing strip be eliminated. The incident mentioned in the Tower Commission's report is a gross violation of our country's neutrality, Costa Rica's ambassador in the United States Guido Fernandez said in Washington.

The Costa Rican Government officially requested explanations over pronouncements by former U.S. Ambassador in San Jose Lewis Tambs, who, according to the Tower Commission's report, declared that his main task was to help the contras to open a southern front against the Sandinist Government.

Such statements, says the note of protest, "are considered as a gross violation of the agreement the terms of which stipulate that the Costa Rican territory cannot be used for military operations against Nicaragua or for logistic support of such operations".

U.S.-PILOTED PLANE DOWNED OVER HONDURAS

PM171615 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Mar 87 First Edition p 5

[Own correspondent N. Ognev dispatch: "They Downed 'One of Theirs'"]

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Mar -- The Washington Administration is once more involved in an unseemly incident. A few days ago the Honduran Air Force shot down a U.S.-made Douglas C-47 transport aircraft over its territory. The violator, carrying no identification marks, had intruded into Honduran airspace and, disobeying fighters' instructions to identify himself, attempted to escape into El Salvador.

According to a statement by the Honduran Armed Forces Press Service, all three crew members died. Documents found where the aircraft came down indicate the aircraft's captain was U.S. citizen Joseph Bernard Masson, colonel in the U.S. Air Force and veteran of the Vietnam war. It was not possible to establish the identity of the others.

Many stories are now pouring out of Washington to explain the incident which took place, pursuing the goal of proving the U.S. Administration's noninvolvement in it.

All these fabrications prove untenable. The Honduran authorities reported that the violator intruded from the direction of Nicaragua. Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega informed the local press of the sighting of a C-47 that day over Nicaragua's northern regions, where the gangs of mercenaries are active. As a rule, this aircraft is, according to him, used by the CIA to transport weapons and ammunition for the "contras."

The final blow to attempts to deceive public opinion was dealt by the admission by General Adolfo Blandon, chief of the Salvadoran Army General Staff, that the C-47 took off from the Ilopango Air Force Base in El Salvador, which has long been used by the Americans to conduct piratical actions against Nicaragua.

PRAVDA CARRIES GOSR JUBILEE APPEAL

PM131605 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Mar 87 First Edition p 1

["To the Soviet People. CPSU Central Committee Appeal" -- passages within slantlines published in boldface]

[Text] Dear Comrades!

The 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution is approaching. This is a major jubilee for the Soviet people.

Our revolution is the most outstanding event of the 20th century, which proclaimed the beginning of a new era in mankind's life. Time has profoundly revealed its abiding importance and has illuminated the gigantic opportunities offered by socialist social development.

In our awareness and in our feelings October is the object of Soviet people's supreme national pride. The revolution was an unparalleled flight of mass historic creativity, a supreme achievement by a victorious people who cast off the yoke of exploitation by capitalists and landowners.

Vladimir Ilich Lenin headed the Bolshevik Party, which roused Russia's working class and working people to accomplish a revolutionary feat. His theoretical thought, his moral example, and the fruits of his titanic labor will live through eternity.

Great October continues in our deeds today. Restructing is being launched in the country, creative work which is revolutionary by nature. Its objective is to accelerate the socialist society's progress. It is pursued by the party's political line, the line of the Central Committee April Plenum and the 27th CPSU Congress, a line which expresses the people's will.

Major decisions of fundamental importance were adopted at the Central Committee plenum held in January. They arm the party and the people with the theory of restructuring and mobilize them for more far-reaching reforms and bold measures called upon to impart to socialism the most modern forms of social organization.

Ours is the first country where socialism has been implemented in practice. The victory of October laid historically unparalleled foundations for people's social life: power of the working people in politics, public ownership of the means of production in the economy, and collectivism and comradely mutual assistance in human relations. These revolutionary transformations constitute the primordial origin and inexhaustible source of the socialist system's vital strength.

Great October and socialism freed our motherland from the ills and troubles which still poison the life of the peoples of many countries in the world. We have no exploitation of man by man. No unemployment. No national oppression. No poverty or illiteracy. Working people live under conditions of social security, with confidence in the future.

/The October Revolution was accomplished for the sake of this, socialism exists for the sake of this./

In the course of socialist building our country has turned into a mighty industrial power with a great economic, scientific, and technical potential. The level of mass education that has been achieved is among the highest in the world. Prosperity has entered working people's homes. Free medical services and state concern for mothers and children, war and labor veterans, and elderly citizens have become customary norms of life. Not a single day passes without thousands of families acquiring new housing.

The country has seen tremendous transformations in the sphere of culture. Socialism appears before the world as a system capable of offering a humanitarian alternative to the inhumanity, violence, and spiritual devastation of bourgeois society as a system safeguarding and augmenting the genuine assets of civilization and, by virtue of this ability and orientation, rejecting culture based on commercialism and profit.

Today we are tackling the task of raising the Soviet economy to the highest level of efficiency and scientific and technical progress in the world. This will mean a significant expansion of the base for further growth of the people's prosperity, the comprehensive development of all members of society, and the satisfaction of people's material and spiritual requirements.

/The way to this was paved by October, by socialism./

The victory of the socialist revolution secured real rights and freedoms for the working person and affirmed the power of the soviets: a democratic form of state life discovered by the people themselves. The Soviet political system contains all the prerequisites for the maximum development of democracy and the people's initiative.

/This system was born out of October, it was created by socialism./

The revolution laid the foundations for a solution to the nationalities question in our country. The equality of peoples and their fraternal cooperation have been affirmed in practice during the years of Soviet power. The economy and culture of all republics have been boosted. We have seen the emergence of a unified Soviet people proud of their common achievements and prepared to defend socialist gains against any encroachments.

The improvement of national relations, just like any other living work, presents new problems. They are being and will be solved on the principles of the Leninist nationalities policy, a policy of sensitivity toward everything affecting national interests and implacability toward any nationalist and chauvinist manifestations.

The country's progress is and will continue to be to the benefit of each national and ethnic group, in the interests of bringing them even closer together, in the interests of our entire unbreakable union. The peoples of the USSR are united by firm friendship, socialist internationalism, and Soviet patriotism.

/October gave us this, socialism gave us this./

We live in a world which has changed profoundly under the influence of our revolution. More than one-third of mankind has already cast off the fetters of capitalist exploitation. Socialism exists, it is developing, it is growing stronger as a world system. There are no more colonial empires, there are dozens of young sovereign states.

The forces of the international proletariat have multiplied and their interests are expressed by Marxist-Leninist communist and workers' parties. Mass democratic, anti-imperialist, and antiwar movements are developing. The general crisis of capitalism is deepening.

The present sociopolitical face of the world is the natural result of the historical process which began with October.

Our first steps in socialist building were directed by Vladimir Ilich Lenin. He is still with us today: The restructuring is establishing the revolutionary spirit of Lenin increasingly profoundly in the life of the party and country.

Also with us today are all those who dedicated themselves to the great cause of socialism. The Leninist revolutionaries, Lenin's comrades in arms, who established the heroic traditions of Bolshevism and maintained unswerving loyalty to communist ideals through all adversities and trials, will live forever in the grateful memory of Soviet people.

The names and images of those who took part in the three Russian revolutions and those who in October 1917 smashed the power of the landowners and capitalists will not fade.

The memory of the heroes of the Civil War and all who defended the Republic of the Soviets against the imperialist interventionists and White Guards is sacred. Our people will not forget the foreign internationalist fighters who, with the cry "Hands off Soviet Russia!", took up arms to defend the gains of October.

Our admiration for the achievements of the enthusiasts of the first 5-year plans, the creators of mighty industry, the builders of collective agriculture, and the creators of socialist culture will not fade.

The feat of the Soviet person, soldier and working person, in the Great Patriotic War is immortal. We bow our heads before the memory of those who fell for the honor and freedom of the socialist fatherland and gave their lives to save the world from the fascist plague. We remember with respect and gratitude the servicemen, patriots, and antifascists of other countries, our allies and comrades in arms in this battle for liberation.

The motherland will always take pride in the labor valor and strength of spirit of the Soviet people who, after that most terrible war, raised cities and villages from the ruins, revived the country, and made it even more mighty.

Comrades!

All the difficulties and trials which await pioneers on the roads of history fell to our lot. They did not stop us. We learned to overcome them, and we overcame them.

The building of socialism began in an atmosphere of economic chaos and military ruin. For nearly 3 decades the USSR stood alone against world capitalism and was constantly subjected to imperialist pressure and blackmail. In the war against Hitlerite aggression, the country lost 20 million of its sons and daughters and was deprived of one-third of its national wealth. For many years we had to work with the utmost intensity and deny ourselves essentials. We stood firm, they did not bend or break us.

There was also something else. We had to pay dearly for deviations from Leninist principles and methods in building the new society, for violations of the socialist rule of law and the democratic norms of life in the party and society, for voluntarist errors, for dogmatism in thought and inertia in practical actions.

In the late seventies and early eighties stagnation tendencies arose in our society and difficulties, unresolved problems, and phenomena alien to socialism began to accumulate. The party and all the Soviet people sensed this and experienced it. The Central Committee came out in favor of acting with revolutionary determination to change our deeds and all our life for the better.

The course set by the April plenum was received by the working people as their own cause. The renewed strict self-criticism in the party, sincerity in policy, the ability to elaborate the measures necessary to rectify the existing situation and to embark on their implementation without delay, all this received wide support among the people.

The 27th CPSU Congress gave a profound, Leninist interpretation of the times we are living through, and its decisions combined magnitude of objectives with realism of potential. The congress was a lesson in truth, a lesson of continuing political and moral value. An uncompromising, open assessment of everything that hampers progress: that is a principled, Leninist stance, an indicator of the party's strength.

Lenin once said: When we find ourselves facing "...new /practical/ tasks, it is as if new forces spring up from the ground to resolve these tasks, forces whose existence nobody even suspected before the turning point was reached." So it is today. In the party and in the people new forces are growing up and becoming involved in the revolutionary cause of restructuring, forces which only yesterday had not been revealed.

The country has begun to move, it has found a second wind. The moral atmosphere in society is becoming purer, spiritual life is becoming more interesting and diverse. Openness and truthfulness, criticism and exactingness are becoming established as integral features of daily life.

The strategy and tactics of the in-depth restructuring of the national economy are being consistently implemented. The management of most important economic sectors is being reorganized. The levers of the new economic mechanism are being activated. An increasing number of labor collectives are confidently gearing their work to improving efficiency and profitability. Production is being retooled. Measures are being implemented to fundamentally improve output quality. In the first year of the 5-year plan the national economy exceeded the plan targets for the main indicators.

One must not be carried away by what has been achieved. It is only the first step, the bulk of the work lies ahead.

Are there guarantees it will work, the process of transformations will not stop, past mistakes will not be repeated?

Yes, there are. The people are committed to restructuring, the working class, the leading force of Soviet society, is deeply committed to it. The restructuring is led by the party, which is giving a practical demonstration of its ability to struggle with revolutionary persistence for the solution of the new tasks and is ready and able to renew the forms and methods of its own work.

The common aspirations and common actions of the party and people, united by experience and awareness of their responsibility for the country's present and future -- this is the guarantee that the course of the 27th congress will be unswervingly implemented. The comprehensive development of the democratism of the socialist system -- this is the guarantee that the strategic task of bringing society into a qualitatively new state will be solved.

More democracy means more socialism.

Everything must and will be done to enable working people to exercise a decisive influence on the formation and on the activity of state and public bodies, on the work and life of labor collectives in an atmosphere of complete openness, in conditions of monitorability, accountability, and election of officials. One cannot make successful progress without getting rid of red tape and dictatorial methods and unnecessary regimentation and prohibitionism, without pulling down the wall of official distrust of people's intelligence and experience, of their diligent, state-minded approach to the job.

Socialist democracy means the growth of the people's self-management in all directions and free competition among intelligent and gifted people. Genuine democracy is constructive by its very nature. It is the sworn enemy of irresponsibility, demagoguery, and chaos.

The party is consistently implementing the principle: No organization, no working person goes unmonitored or is above criticism. People who think in the modern way, who are prepared to account to the people for their actions are increasingly being promoted to leading posts.

By expanding democracy, strengthening socialist legality, developing the activity of soviets, trade unions, the Komsomol, and other public organizations, elevating the dignity of the individual, and protecting in every way the rights of citizens and labor collectives, we are providing scope for the most powerful creative force of socialism -- the free labor of a free man in a free country.

Comrades!

/The Central Committee calls upon all Soviet people to be deeply conscious of and responsible for the future complexion of the country, for the future of socialism/. What has been achieved since October, in the decades of socialist building, presents a magnificent picture. Time is now presenting a new challenge. In the altered conditions, as was stressed at the Central Committee January Plenum, our society's dynamism and ability to climb the rungs of progress rapidly are being tested again.

Our economy is being tested in terms of its efficiency, its espousal of advanced technology, its ability to make first-class products and compete with the best in world markets. Our moral outlook, our entire way of life are being tested in terms of their ability to steadily develop and enrich the values of socialist democracy, social justice and humanity. Our foreign policy is being tested for firmness and consistency in the defense of peace, for flexibility and composure in the conditions of the frantic arms race which imperialism is whipping up and the international tension it is fueling.

The whole world is watching the Soviet people, the homeland of October: Can we make it, will we give a worthy response to the challenge facing socialism.

/The Central Committee is appealing to working people's labor honor and professional pride and to Soviet people's patriotism./ Today we are working on the implementation of the targets of the 12th 5-Year Plan, a crucial period for the acceleration program. It is necessary in a short period to ensure a qualitative improvement in the economy and create a sound foundation for the future. This task is the focus of the competition for a fitting greeting to the 70th anniversary of October. Its successful solution depends on the personal attitude of everyone involved in social production, on how exacting the voice of labor conscience sounds in the collectives.

The trade unions have a great and crucial role to play. Restructuring calls upon them to be indefatigable organizers of working people in the struggle for modern production standards, for a high level of professionalism.

Throughout the ages our land has been renowned for its masters. Those masters worthy of the name who had the ability to work in such a way that the glory of their work spread throughout the world. In the Soviet Land's history there are many examples of when its workers, scientists, engineers, and designers achieved results which surpassed the world's best achievements. We are even more capable of that today.

/The Central Committee appeals to Soviet People's reason and experience/. There are no ready formulas for all occasions of life. Let restructuring be a nationwide creative laboratory. Let us be attentive and critical as we consider the practice of renewal, evaluate every grain of advanced experience, and adopt and develop it. Vital, unshackled throught, that is the essential condition of acceleration.

The party constantly learns from the people. It absorbs their collective reason, measures its policy against the experience of the masses, and considers its duty to correctly express the people's throughts.

/The Central Committee appeals to the Soviet people's courage/. Breaking down rigid forms, methods, and customs is not easy. It is necessary to struggle for restructuring, restructuring must be defended. This needs determination, firmness, and principle. It also takes character and selflessness.

More than once the Soviet people's courage, endurance, and fortitude have been placed in the scales of history and brought victory. The party is confident that it will be that way now as well.

/The Central Committee appeals to Soviet people's civic feelings/. The country is experiencing a demanding and interesting time when each of its citizens is making a moral choice. The work we have begun cannot be completed by indifferent hands or cold hearts. By its very essence it rejects the philistine morality of time-servers, uncommitted observers, soulless consumers. Restructuring needs people who are concerned for the cause, who are exacting and intolerant toward mismanagement and bureaucracy. It needs political fighters selflessly devoted to communist ideals and capable of defending and increasing our great social, moral, and cultural values.

The party and the people place great hopes on young people with their energy, thirst for change, and incisive reaction to shortcomings. [paragraph continues]

Young people must be given the opportunity to give full account of themselves in independent work. The times are opening up a broad field of activity for the Komsomol, a Komsomol that is militant, seeking serious work, free of red tape and overorganization, a true leader of young people.

/The Central Committee appeals to CPSU members/. Confirm, Comrade Communists, by each day of your life that you are aware of and share the tremendous political responsibility resting at this crucial time on the CPSU as the country's ruling party. Remember the people judge the party by your actions, your conduct. Selfless work, boldness, and innovation are required from you above all. It is the Communist's duty to always act according to the party conscience in all things -- and no other way. Your personal initiative will determine to a great extent how the process of social renewal progresses.

/The Central Committee appeals to all Soviet people to be fully aware that our daily labor and every step on the path of the acceleration of the country's socioeconomic development are gaining increasing importance in world politics./

The 70th anniversary of the Great October Revolution is occurring at a time when the human race itself faces the problem of survival. The future of the world, a contradictory but united and interconnected world, is being decided now. The planet can and must be rid of the threat of nuclear war. Life in conditions of security, independence, and progress can and must be guaranteed to all the peoples. It is not all up to us, the USSR and socialism, in this respect. We shall do what does depend on us and do it in full.

The course of our party and state in world politics is consistently peace loving. We approach international problems realistically and flexibly guided by the new political thinking. We will steadfastly go on working as we approach the third millenium to enable the states to throw away their nuclear weaponry, to prevent the spread of weapons to space, and to reduce and ultimately eliminate them on earth.

While international reaction fuels the arms race and until it renounces the policy of social revenge and "crusades' against socialism, the CPSU and the Soviet state will do everything necessary to maintain the defensive might of our country and the socialist community at the requisite level. Soviet people may rest assured: We will never allow imperialism to gain military superiority over us under any circumstances.

We are channeling all our country's political authority and international influence into the struggle for peace. They will be all the more effective the better things go at home and the deeper our cooperation with the fraternal socialist countries is. Socialism and peace are indivisible. The mightier socialism is, the more durable peace will be.

Dear Comrades!

Our entire society is on the same side of the barricade. The aim of the party and the people is the same aim. The fundamental interests of the working class, the kolkhoz peasanty, and the intelligentsia are the same interests. The cause of the older generations, the veterans of socialist building, and their young shift is the same cause. The destiny of each nation and ethnic group, each republic, and the entire Soviet Union is the same destiny.

The ideals of October are a call to work for the sake of the Soviet people's well being, the motherland's prosperity, and the sake of socialism and peace. Let us pool our reason, our will, and our energy into a single entity. Let us channel this invincible force into resolving the new tasks facing us. Let us fulfill all that has been planned. Let us worthily continue the revolutionary cause of October!

[Signed] The CPSU Central Committee

CPSU Adopts GOSR Resolution

PM180925 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Mar 87 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "At The CPSU Central Committee"]

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee has adopted a resolution "On Preparations for the 70th Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution."

The 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution falls on 7 November 1987.

Seven decades ago, the resolution notes, a crucial event took place in our history and world history. The working class and working people of Russia, led by the Bolshevik party headed by V.I. Lenin, accomplished a very great revolution, a revolution which marked mankind's movement toward socialism, heralded the birth of the world's first worker-peasant state, and laid the foundation for a fundamentally new, just social system.

The 70th anniversary of October is a big festival for the Soviet people, a festival for the peoples of the socialist countries and all progressive people of the world. It is a review of our forces and of the achievements of socialism. At the same time, it is a vantage point from which to assess the results and lessons of the ground that has been covered, the changes taking place in the world, and the new tasks facing Soviet society at the present, extremely important stage of its development.

Soviet people are greeting the upcoming jubilee, as the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum stressed, in an atmosphere of thorough restructuring of all spheres of social life. The best way to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Great October is to step up our transformation work and achieve tangible new successes in the struggle to accelerate the country's socioeconomic development and implement the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress. This would give a further powerful impetus to the cause which was instituted in October 1917.

The CPSU Central Committee has decreed widespread celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution and stressed that the preparations for the jubilee must be used as an important factor in further boosting the labor, political, and spiritual activity of Communists and nonparty people and all working people of the USSR.

Union republic communist party central committees, party kraykoms, obkoms, okrug committees, gorkoms, and raykoms, primary party organizations, soviet bodies, ministries and departments, trade union, Komsomol, and other public organizations, creative unions, and Soviet Army and Navy political bodies are instructed to elaborate and implement specific measures in connection with the important upcoming date.

The CPSU Central Committee appeal to the Soviet people in connection with the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution was approved. It was thought advisable to discuss the CPSU Central Committee appeal at party, Komsomol, and trade union meetings and in labor collectives, educational establishments, and military units.

In the course of jubilee preparations it is recommended that the efforts of working people and all Soviet people be focused on practical implementation of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the targets of the 12th 5-Year Plan and, above all, the State Plan for Economic and Social Development in 1987.

The resolution notes the importance of developing mass socialist competition for a fitting greeting to Great October. The fulfillment of socialist pledges adopted in honor of the 70th anniversary of October is to be taken into account in summing up all-union socialist competition in 1987. Party organizations and Soviet bodies are to take the strictest action against "report-mania" and efforts to embellish the real state of affairs.

In every labor collective it is necessary to discuss the results of competition in honor of the 70th anniversary of October and determine additional measures to intensify the role of labor competition in the struggle to accelerate scientific and technical progress and fundamentally improve output quality, save resources, and strictly carry out contract deliveries.

A CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, AUCCTU, and Komsomol Central Committee Jubilee Diploma has been instituted as an incentive for labor collectives and leading production workers who fulfill the targets for the first 2 years of the 5-year plan by the October jubilee, achieve high technical and economic indicators, and ensure top-quality output.

An AUCCTU proposal to invite to the 70th Great October Socialist Revolution anniversary celebrations in Moscow about 1,000 socialist competition leaders, 12th 5-Year Plan shock workers who have achieved the best results in the jubilee year, and a group of socialist countries' working people -- winners of international socialist competition in their own countries and at integration projects in the USSR -- was accepted.

The USSR State Committee for Science and Technology, with the involvement of ministries and departments and union republic Councils of Ministers, is instructed to open an exhibition entitled "70 Years Beneath the Banner of Great October" at the USSR Exhibition of National Economic Achievements in July 1987 and to prepare a permanent exhibition called "The acceleration of the Country's Socioeconomic Development." Union republic festivals are to be organized at the USSR Exhibition of National Economic Achievements in connection with the jubilee.

It was stressed that in political work among working people it is necessary to cogently reveal the intrinsic link between the accomplishments of the October Revolution and the current transformations of a revolutionary nature in all aspects of Soviet society's life. It must be demonstrated that today, too, what we are talking about is the future of our homeland, working people's fundamental interests, and the historic destiny of socialism. Today, as then, there is a need for unshakable loyalty to the communist banner and inflexible will and persistence in achieving the targets. Today, as then, the main motive force of change is the working people led by Lenin's party, their revolutionary energy, and the masses' live creativity.

Party organizations and soviet bodies have been recommended to make extensive use of local soviet elections, elections of people's judges and people's assessors of rayon (city) people's courts, and other mass campaigns to explain the gains of Great October in the matter of implementing working people's sovereignty, the democratic character of the Soviet state system, and the principles of the people's socialist self-management. Everything must be done to contribute to the implementation of these principles.

It is necessary to persuasively demonstrate socialism's achievements and its fundamental advantages over capitalism and strengthen Soviet people's faith in the triumph of communist ideals. Propaganda must be conducted from the standpoint of truth and realism, ensuring that all Soviet people, to use Lenin's words, are able to "acquire as sober, as clear, and as graphic an awareness as possible of what we have actually carried through and what we have not carried through." It is necessary, by boldly revealing shortcomings, to rally working people to the struggle to eliminate them and inspire them to work persistently to improve socialism and attain the CPSU's program goals.

It is noted that party organizations should be indefatigable in their concern for increasing Communists' vanguard role and ensuring that each of them sets an example in labor, social and political activity, and everyday life, and is a worthy successor and continuer of the famous deeds of the immortal guard of Leninist Bolsheviks who inspired the masses to take the old world by storm, defend the revolutionary gains, and build a new society.

Active use must be made of the CPSU's very abundant experience and the experience of socialist building to solve the new tasks. The larger and more complex the changes in the country become, the more important it is to learn how to apply the lessons of the past to today and tomorrow and the more urgent becomes the work to strengthen the unity of party and people and instill in Soviet people a clear understanding of the sources of socialist accomplishments and the vital forces of the ideas of October.

The CPSU Central Committee Science and Educational Establishments, Propaganda, and Organizational Party Work Departments, in conjunction with the Institute of Marxism-Leninism and the Academy of Social Sciences under the CPSU Central Committee, are instructed to elaborate measures to fundamentally improve research, study, and propaganda of the historical experience of the CPSU.

The Institute of Marxism-Leninism at the CPSU Central Committee, in conjunction with the USSR Academy of Sciences and the Academy of Social Sciences at the CPSU Central Committee, has been instructed to hold an international scientific conference "Great October and the Present Day" in 1987.

The important task for party, trade union, Komsomol, and other public organizations, soviets, and labor and education collectives is to educate working people, especially the young, in the revolutionary, combat, and labor traditions of the Communist Party and Soviet people, in the spirit of the indestructible friendship of the USSR peoples, in the spirit of constant readiness to defend the socialist fatherland.

The CPSU Central Committee considers it necessary to continue to increase efforts to instill in new generations dedication to the cause of Great October and a desire to increase the Soviet homeland's material and spiritual wealth and strengthen its economic and defense might. Support was expressed for the patriotic movement of Soviet youth which was launched on the initiative of Lenin's Komsomol and whose motto is "Sustain the revolutionary stride!" A Komsomol Central Committee proposal on holding an all-union rally of Komsomol members and young people in October 1987 in Leningrad to celebrate the 70th anniversary of October was accepted.

Party committees and soviets, in conjunction with public organizations, are recommended to organize celebrations in honor of old Bolsheviks and war and labor veterans and to adopt measures to improve housing and amenities and medical and trade services for them.

Central and local newspapers and journals, television, and radio, the CPSU Central Committee resolution says, are to ensure regular publication of materials revealing in depth the worldwide-historic significance of the Great October Socialist Revolution, the innovative, pioneering nature of the transformations that are being implemented in the country under the party's leadership, and the CPSU's indefatigable concern for the welfare and peaceful life of Soviet people.

The USSR State Committee for Publishing Houses, Printing Plants, and the Book Trade is instructed to publish in the languages of the USSR peoples and in foreign languages books, pamphlets, booklets, and posters on the history of the Soviet state and the Soviet state today, the friendship of our country's peoples, the outstanding achievements of Soviet science and culture, and the heroes of the revolution, war, and labor.

It was suggested that the USSR Central Statistical Administration publish a collection of data entitled "The USSR National Economy over 70 years," that the USSR Ministry of Finance and USSR Gosbank issue R1, R3, and R5 commemorative coins, and that the USSR Ministry of Communications issue a series of stamps, covers, and postcards in connection with the October jubilee.

The resolution points out the need to make full use during preparations for the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution of the educational potential of Soviet literature and art and mass cultural work. The USSR Ministry of Culture, the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting, the USSR State Committee for Publishing Houses, Printing Plants, and the Book Trade, the USSR State Committee on Cinematography, the USSR State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports, and the country's creative unions should provide for the publication of the best works of Soviet literature, the creation of new shows, movies, and concert programs, and cinema and television movie retrospectives and exhibitions and organize sports festivals celebrating Great October and the Soviet people's heroism.

It is regarded as important to step up work on further strengthening links and interaction between national cultures. The creative organizations' initiative on holding a Festival of USSR Peoples' Literature and Art in republics, krays, and oblasts was approved. An all-union art exhibition entitled "70 Years of Great October" will be held in Moscow in October 1987. The USSR Ministry of Culture is charged with coordinating these events.

In the context of the second all-union festival of folk art celebrating the 70th anniversary of Great October it is planned to organize in May-November 1987 exhibitions of works by amateur artists and outstanding exponents of decorative and applied art, a festival of song, theater, and dance, and festivals of folk art and wind music involving amateur collectives which have won festivals and competitions.

Party organizations and the news media are instructed to provide consistent coverage of the multifaceted and constructive foreign policy activity of the CPSU and the Soviet state, activity which is aimed at eliminating the nuclear threat and safeguarding world peace, is based on a profound awareness of the present-day realities, and actively affirms the new political thinking. It is necessary to give a convincing picture of our position on international affairs -- a clear, honest, just position taking into account the legitimate interests of all the peoples. The peoples of the world must be given the truth about the new system, about socialism as the alternative to capitalism.

It is necessary to give extensive coverage to the achievements of the socialist community countries, topical questions pertaining to cooperation among them, the activity of communist and workers parties, and the anti-imperialist struggle of the peoples and countries. It must be demonstrated that the destiny of peace and social progress is linked more closely than ever before to the dynamism of the economic and political development of the world socialist system.

The AUCCTU, Komsomol Central Committee, Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, relevant ministries and departments, and local party bodies are recommended to organize labor, peace, and friendship relays in honor of the 70th anniversary of Great October at integration projects and other cooperation projects. Socialist competition is to be developed between Soviet labor collectives and working people's collectives in the socialist countries, and international labor vigils and shifts are to be organized, as well as professional expertise competitions, friendship festivals and evenings, exhibitions, and joint social, political, and mass cultural functions celebrating the October jubilee.

A number of measures is envisaged for the purpose of explaining the idea of October and the present-day policy of the CPSU and Soviet state to foreign audiences.

It was deemed expedient to hold a joint session of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet, and RSFSR Supreme Soviet in Moscow in November 1987 in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

It is recommended that sessions of party committees and soviets, attended by representatives of working people, public organizations, and Army and Navy servicemen, be held in Moscow and Leningrad, the capitals of union and autonomous republics, kray and oblast centers, cities, and rayons in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

There will be celebratory meetings in honor of the 70th anniversary of Great October at enterprises, on kolkhozes and sovkhozes, and in institutions, educational establishments, and military units.

RYZHKOV ADDRESSES SVERDLOVSK WORKERS MEETING

PM121241 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Mar 87 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Party's Strategy Must be Embodied in Specific Deeds"]

[Text] Sverdlovsk, 10 Mar -- Together with all the Soviet people the inhabitants of the Urals have welcomed restructuring as their vital concern. They are seeking to make a worthy contribution to the implementation of the party's strategic course aimed at accelerating the country's socioeconomic development.

What results have the first steps on the path of transformation produced? What problems are preventing headway? How best and most rapidly to overcome them? There was a frank, businesslike talk about these questions in Sverdlovsk today. It took place at a meetiong of the city's working people with N.I. Ryzhkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

Our meeting is taking place in a very crucial period in the country's life, N.I. Ryzhkov said in his speech. A little over a month has elapsed since the Central Committee January Plenum which gave precise guidelines for the practical actions to implement the concept of accelerating the development of society which was elaborated by the Central Committee April (1985) Plenum was a political event of historical importance, a revolutionary milestone opening a new era in the building of socialism in our country.

The report delivered at the plenum by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, clearly defined the point and nature of restructuring. It is a case of the party's bold and realistic plans affecting the interests of each one of us and the destiny of the entire country and socialism as a whole.

On the basis of a profound analysis the January Central Committee Plenum showed once more with particular force the objective need for restructuring, the speaker continued. A drastic shift is necessary in the development of society to ensure a rapid tempo for the simultaneous solution of important tasks of socialist building like the dynamic development of the economy, the further improvement of the people's welfare, and the safeguarding of the country's defense capability. Above all we must overcome the stagnation processes and create a reliable and effectively operating mechanism of acceleration.

It is clear that the key question is to transfer the plenum decisions to the plane of specific deeds as rapidly as possible, to accelerate the process of restructuring, and to prevent a breach between the decisions and their implementation.

The reality of our plans will depend to a determining degree on how we are able to carry out restructuring in the economy and ensure its steady and dynamic development.

In this regard the task of implementing a radical reform of the entire system of economic management has been promotd to the fore. Its thrust is in the restoration and development of Lenin's principles of democratic centralism and the universal introduction of economic methods of management. This presupposes the expansion of the rights and the enhancement of the responsibility of enterprises and associations, the restructuring of the functions and activity of ministries and departments, the use of more effective forms of planning, and the transfer of all echelons of the economy to complete financial autonomy and self-financing.

One of the program tasks connected with restructuring in the social sphere and its priority development consists in its inextricable interconnection with the growth of the entire economy. Only on this basis can the working people's active participation be ensured in the implementation of profound transformations in the country.

To ensure everything the party has planned is embodied in specific deeds and to ensure restructuring becomes the very life of our society, it is essential to have the entire people's interest in this very important matter. There is one path here -- broad democratization. It is defined by the Central Committee January Plenum as the main guarantee of success in implementing everything devised by the party concerning restructuring.

This work is already under way on a number of very important salients. Now, in the light of the profound political conclusions contained in M.S. Gorbachev's report at the Central Committee January Plenum and in his speeches during his trip to the Latvian SSR and Estonian SSR and at the 18th Trade Union Congress, much must be reviewed and assessed anew.

As you know, N.I. Ryzhkov continued, the January plenum approved the USSR draft law on state enterprises (associations) and submitted it for nationwide discussion. This is a document of paramount importance.

The law will be the foundation on which an integral system of management will be erected encompassing all echelons, including sectorial ministries, and central economic organs. Their functions will also be substantially altered. All this presupposes in appropriate attitude toward the draft law. We cannot allow its discussion to be conducted formally even in the individual labor collective. Discussion must enrich this document with new ideas and valuable proposals. It is also essential for the active propaganda of new methods of economic management and their in-depth assimilation by their leaders and by all working people.

The chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers stressed that under the new conditions of economic management it is urgently necessary to improve production and financial activity and to enhance the profitability of the work of enterprises. This also applies to Sverdlovsk Oblast. In 1986 some 149 industrial enteprises here failed to fulfill the plan for financial indicators. This resulted in a loss of R80 million in profit. I think there is no need to say only highly effective work by the enterprise will make it possible to ensure normal conditions for the production and social activity of a labor collective which has switched to the principles of full financial autonomy and self financing.

The Central Committee January Plenum defined paths for the fundamental improvement of the party's cadres policy, the speaker continued. The formation of a highly effective cadres potential and its renewal is so far proceeding unevenly and in some places simply slowly. There are still many people in leading posts who are either unwilling or unable to work under the conditions of restructuring.

We must actively promote cadres with special economic training who have a taste for economics and have assimilated modern economic management methods well, people capable of working in an atmoshere of deepening democracy.

The speaker dwelled on questions of the appointment of leaders of enterprises and their subdivisions by election.

The implementation of the course toward acceleration depends to a determining degree on how we are able to use the tremendous potential of scientific and technical progress. An important role in this great work undoubtedly belongs to industrial centers like Sverdlovsk Oblast which possess a powerful scientific and technical potential.

The USSR Council of Ministers chairman expressed the certainty that the local, party, and soviet organs and economic leaders, relying on the labor collectives, would make one more in-depth analysis, from the positions of the January plenum, of how to bring the oblast's existing reserves for enhancing the economy's effectiveness more fully into action.

Special emphasis, the speaker indicated, must be placed on two fundamental questions: The country must be given first-class equipment which should surpass the world's best models and this must be done as rapidly as possible.

If there is an area in which the Sverdlovsk people must approach matters vigorously, persistently, and in an innovatory manner, and step up their work in earnest, in the manner of the people of the Urals, then it is in questions of the acceleration of scientific and technical progress. The situation so far is such that you must drastically and rapidly restructure yourselves. There are many deeds ahead. After all, as yet the proportion of equipment created in the oblast surpassing the best Soviet and foreign models is only 8 percent. A number of enterprises have failed to ensure that the planned tempo for updating machine building output has been reached.

It would seem no bad thing that over half of your developments travel the path from laboratories and design sections to embodiment in metal in 3 years. At the same time over 40 percent of new equipment takes 5 or more years to create. All that is progressive and the world's best should be assimilated and given the go-ahead for practical implementation. In your oblast only about 40 percent of the increase in labor productivity has been obtained through technical progress measures. Thus the farms have begun to create new workplaces and to enlist additional manpower resources, that is to slide onto the extensive path of development.

The improvement of the quality of output is perhaps one of the most acute problems, the speaker noted. An uncompromising struggle for high quality has been launched in the country. Everyone has long been convinced that the quality situation has reached the limit, as they say. This has caused economic, moral, and even political damage. The CPSU Central Committee and the government have elaborated a package of organizational and economic measures aimed at a fundamental change in questions of quality. State acceptance has been introduced at 1,500 of the country's enterprises. I would say we have embarked on quite stringent measures in this matter. Only thus is it possible to step up all work on the improvement of the technical standard and quality of output, that is to resolve the question of the economy's further growth.

Sverdlovsk Oblast must also draw serious conclusons from this. The output quality situation here remains unsatisfactory. Many enterprises have not only failed to make headway but have also surrendered positions. You are well aware that petroleum and gas extraction essentially rests on equipment produced by the "Uralmash." Half of this equipment is delivered in incomplete sets. Its standard leaves room for improvement. The Ministry of Heavy and Transport Machine Building and the oblast party organization know of this. Yet since 1980 people here have been quite incapable of commissioning the shop in Bulanash for the production of more modern petroleum extraction equipment.

We know the Sverdlovsk party organization as a militant organization capable of resolving the most important questions. You remember how the Verkh-Isetskiy cold rolling shop was constructed? What about Kachanar? They were oblast construction sites. So surely there is no lack of militancy for the construction of the branch in Bulanash?

The restructuring of the economy, N.I. Ryzhkov continued, is based on fundamental changes in investment policy. We have steered a course toward the acceleration of the growth of capital investments. Profound changes are being implemented in the reproduction and sectorial structure. Priority has been given to retooling and the modernization of existing production.

It is clear this is also one of the most important tasks for Sverdlovsk's enterprises. The degree of wear and tear on industry's fixed production capital here is 49 percent. [paragraph continues]

The coefficient for its renewal in the 11th 5-Year Plan actually declined. This is an alarming trend. It will inevitably affect social production efficiency. For how many years now has there been no solution to questions of the modernization of the metallurgical plants constructed back in the days of the Demidovs [dynasty of Russian metallurgical plant owners]?

Yet the experience does exist and you do not have to go far to find it. A graphic example is the Verkh-Isetskiy metallurgical plant. A large amount of work has been performed here to create a new production facility with modern technology for the manufacture of high-quality transformer steel. This will make it possible to eliminate as early as next year the old shops which have been in operation for 250 years.

The retooling of old plants is a very serious matter for the Urals. A highly skilled working class with the long and glorious traditions of the Urals metallurgical workers is working at these plants. I think the ministeries and the local party organs could approach the solution of this question in a thorough manner. They should draft a special program for retooling such enterprises. The Sverdlovsk people have quite good experience of steering the course toward modernization. You were the ones to come up with the decision to ensure the growth of existing capacities on this basis.

The speaker also touched on the important problem of the need to equip establishments in strict accordance with standard deadlines. It was pointed out that because of long-term construction and the belated assimilation of new capacities, the Sverdlovsk workers are responsible for a considerable shortfall in the supply of ferrous metallurgy and machine building output to the national economy.

The speaker paid great attention to the need to transfer to the two-shift and three-shift work regime.

The progressive new equipment which is replacing obsolete equipment should work with the maximum yield, he said. That is not what is happening everywhere. For instance, at the ''Turbomotornyy zavod'' production association, of 176 machine tools with numerical program control, 57 proved, at the time of checking, to be standing idle during the first shift, while 44 were not fully operational all day.

To have an idea of what increasing the shift work system would mean, let's just take the modern processing center produced by the Leningrad Imeni Sverdlov association. It costs about R300,000. Imagine such a machine tool standing idle or being used for only one shift and gathering duest the rest of the time. That means part of its cost has been cast to the wind. Yet the cost of such a machine tool is essentially equal to the cost of constructing 20 new apartments. In other words, increasing the shift work system means to a considerable extent accelerating scientific and technical progress, stepping up production intensification, and improving economic activity. As a result there are new opportunities for reallocating resources for resolving social tasks.

The local soviet ispolkoms are assigned a special role in enterprises' transition to the multishift work system. They must become veritable organizers in fulfilling this statewide task. They must coordinate many aspects of production activity and the services sphere. The transfer to the multishift work regime is possible only on a regional basis -- on the basis of the rayon or city.

Speaking of the social policy which is being pursued in the country and which is the paramount concern of the party and government, the speaker noted the past year has brought changes for the better. But, as the January Central Committee Plenum pointed out, so far no fundamental changes have been achieved.

Special attention, the speaker stressed, has been paid to the considerable expansion of housing construction. While in 1986 the commissioning of housing rose by 5 million square meters, this year an even greater increase is expected -- approximately 8 million square meters.

Work has been initiated to resolve another acute problem of providing preschool institutions. We have a clear-cut guideline: fully satisfying the demand for these institutions in the current 5-year plan.

Measures have now been taken to expand the construction of medical institutions and to provide them with modern equipment, medical supplies, and qualified cadres.

The speech noted the positive elements which have been achieved by the Sverdlovsk people in the development of the sociocultural sphere, drew attention to shortcomings, and voiced ideas concerning ways and means of eliminating them. In particular mention was made of the decline last year in the production of consumer goods, of the poor quality of many of them, and of the inadequate development of paid services. The Sverdlovsk Oblispolkom was seriously criticized in this connection.

N.I. Ryzhkov dwelled on questions concerning the work of the agro-industrial complex both for the country as a whole and in Sverdlovsk Oblast. He noted the problems existing there must be resolved with even greater persistence, seeking to achieve the complete fulfillment of the Food Program targets.

Scientific and technical progress, the quality of output, the economic mechanism, democratization -- these are all inextricable components of the foundation of restructuring, the USSR Council of Ministers chairman noted. Restructuring is a complex process requiring tremendous efforts on the part of the entire people. It is perfectly clear we are at the beginning of the path; we have been unable to overcome everything negative in the national economy which has come from the past. Inertia and the habit of working in the old way are still having an effect in many respects. Despite a certain upsurge in 1986, the first month of this year has shown the economy has failed to acquire the steadiness to ensure its dynamism under any conditions and given the restraining factors which it encountered in January in particular and against which we are not insured in the future. The February results show the situation is being somewhat amended. The January lag is far from overcome.

First we should draw attention to hauling up chronically lagging enterprises and eliminating bottlenecks and disproportions and immediately stabilize the situation in base sectors like rail transport, ferrous metallurgy, and the chemical industry. The most enormous efforts will be required in the machine building complex.

Our task is to build up the tempo of economic development to fully scale the year's projected heights within the next few months.

The meeting took place at the Youth Center in Verkh-Isetskiy Rayon. This rayon is on the territory of the Chkalovskiy electoral okrug from which the USSR Council of Ministers chairman was elected a USSR Supreme Soviet deputy.

The deputy described what has been done to fulfill the voters' mandates. They mainly concerned the sociocultural sphere. There was mention of the acceleration of the construction of a subway in Sverdlovsk, of aid in erecting a Pioneers and schoolchildren's center, a road transport station and a railroad station, and a number of other city projects.

The speaker then dwelled on problems of the present-day international situation.

In conclusion the USSR Council of Ministers chairman said:

The country is approaching the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution with a clear and precise program elaborated by the party -- a program for accelerating the country's socioeconomic development, improving Soviet people's well-being, fundamentally restructuring all aspects of society's life, and pursuing an active foreign policy. The party and people are raising the banner of peace and international cooperation high above the planet.

The party's strategic course is meeting with Soviet people's warm approval because it expresses their hopes and plans for the future!

N.I. Ryzhkov expressed to all Sverdlovsk people his profound thanks for their warm welcome and wished them great labor successes.

The meeting was addressed by A.P. Voronin, first secretary of the Chkalovskiy CPSU Raykom; Hero of Socialist Labor V.S. Ozhiganov, director of the Verkh-Isetskiy metallurgical plant; V.S. Aristov, leader of a team of lathe operators at the "Uralkhimmash" production association; G.S. Dronin, first secretary of the Verkh-isetskiy CPSU Raykom; V.N. Misharin, chairman of the Gornoshchitskoye rural soviet ispolkom; L.B. Pavova, student at the medical institute; and P.M. Shamanov, chairman of the Sverdlovsk Gorispolkom.

They spoke with profound interest of the reserves for acceleration which lie primarily in the growth of each person's responsibility for the matter in hand and for the end result. It was emphasized that the improvement of the quality of life of society can only be ensured by labor, highly productive, efficient labor.

Without concealing their own failures and omissions in the production and the social spheres, the speakers noted at the same time that restructuring, regarding the transition to economic methods of administration, the expansion of the rights of enterprises and associations, and democratization requires corresponding approaches on the part of union ministries and departments. More effective assistance is expected from them in creating favorable conditions for displaying economic initiative and resourcefulness and a greater degree of obligation to the labor collectives and local organs.

The speeches demonstrated the Sverdlovsk people's resolute intention to work to the utmost to implement the party's plans.

N.I. Ryzhkov answered workers' questions.

KARPOV: PLENUM MANDATES 'CREATIVE' ACTION

PM041325 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Feb 87 p 3

["Remarks by a Participant in the CPSU Central Committee Plenum" by Vladimir Karpov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the USSR Writers Union Board: "Act! Act Creatively!"]

[Text] Vladimir Ilich Lenin's revolutionary theory and practice possess enormous magnetic force. Having come across the Marxist-Leninist teaching for the first time in the course of preparations for and execution of history's first socialist revolution, millions of people resolutely joined the ranks beneath its banner.

Now our party and people have also entered a period of revolutionary transformations; restructuring is under way in the country's entire economic, social, and spiritual life.

There are encounters which revolutionize man's fate. To be more precise, man is inspired and given wings by the thoughts and deliberations voiced during such encounters or, even more precisely, by the ideas, the magnetic force of these ideas,the convincing nature and captivating beauty of their scope, their fairness and their indisputable universal usefulness.

It was precisely such an historical and revolutionizing conversation that took place at the CPSU Central Committee Plenum in the Kremlin 27-28 January. The talk during those 2 days was about the fate of each and every one of us, the fate of the country and the people. It is neither easy nor simple to undertake such revolutionary transformations, but the party did. Having admitted with total frankness what it was that led to the phenomena of stagnation in the late seventies and early eighties, it called upon the people to overcome them. Not only did it issue this call, but it also indicated how to wage this struggle and how to accomplish the irreversible restructuring planned by the CPSU Central Committee April (1985) Plenum and the 27th party congress.

In his report to the plenum, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev also spoke about the misfortunes in literature engendered by phenomena of stagnation: "Criteria in the evaluation of artistic creativity declined. This led to a situation where, in parallel with works which raised serious social and moral problems and reflected the real collisions of life, there appeared quite a few mediocre and featureless works which gave nothing to either the mind or the senses.... Here one cannot fail to speak about the responsibility born by our ideological departments, editors of artistic journals and leaders of creative unions, literary criticism, literary workers themselves, and figures in the arts for the ideological and artistic orientation of the creative process and for the people's moral health."

Those are sharp, hard, but fair words!

Yes, we did have people who loved roseate hues, singing praises, and beating drums. There is no need to go far in search of examples, it is sufficient to reach for the nearest bookshelf....

I do think, however, that M.S. Gorbachev spoke of our literary misfortunes not in order to reprimand or offend anyone, but to enable us to realize our specific errors and the scope of our responsibility before the people, to correct the prevailing situation by means of equally specific creative deeds.

During the discussion of political, social, and economic problems, many of those who addressed the plenum spoke about the press and literature and their enormous importance in the implementation of restructuring. A distinctive discussion developed on this issue, I took down a few notes from it, and I believe it is very important for writers' understanding of their tasks under today's circumstances.

I.K. Polozkov, first secretary of the Krasnodar Party Kraykom, spoke about correspondents arriving, spending a few days at a plant or on a kolkhoz, and publishing an abusive article in their newspaper. Is it likely that those who have worked for many years in a given oblast and know people and all production problems, understand them less than such a correspondent?

Several speakers supported this thesis and added something else. Is our press not speaking too much about negative phenomena? Authors at times relish shortcomings, and they are particularly keen on irony against leading workers. Is this not harmful, does it not provide information about negative aspects of our life which is sought after by ill-wishers?

Here is another opinion: The issue revolves not around the sharpness of criticism but around the competence of authors and the accuracy of facts. Authors must be held responsible for their accusations if they prove groundless.

Let me repeat that I am citing statements at the plenum not verbatim but in note form, I am reporting their essence.

The opinion by G.A. Arbatov, director of the USSR Academy of Sciences United States and Canada Institute, seemed well argued to me. He said that Sovietologists in the West are trying to present our restructuring as yet another temporary propaganda measure. If our press were to stop carrying sharp critical articles and features, they would use this to prove that they were right. It is, of course, not these Sovietologists that matter. It is primarily we who need criticism and publicity for successful restructuring. And as for positive heroes, they will definitely appear. It will, of course, take time for works in major art forms to appear; they are not created overnight.

Here is what V.P. Tikhomirov, turner at Moscow's Vladimir Ilich Electrical Engineering Plant, had to say:

"What is necessary is not only to state the negative facts but also to investigate at greater depth their causes and sources. This will be more beneficial for the cause."

As it always happens with fervent characters, USSR People's Artist M.A. Ulyanov spoke ardently and passionately, relying on his great creative experience. His speech contained the following words:

"Art is the people's eyes, and neither pink nor black glasses should be placed before them. Reality, the truth of life, this has always been the foundation of genuine art!"

Summing up the results of the CPSU Central Committee Plenum, M.S. Gorbachev said the following in his closing speech about the aforementioned speeches (and other speeches not cited here) on matters concerning the press, literature, and art:

"The Communist Party firmly upholds the view that the people should know everything. Publicity, criticism, and self-criticism, and monitoring by the masses, these are the guarantees for Soviet society's healthy development."

The broad scope for truth enhances our responsibility and confirms the well known truism that much is demanded of him to whom much is given. "The press must back publicity in our country and inform our people." "But," M.S. Gorbachev reminded, "it must do this responsibly; this is the wish we express. Not to harp on sensationalism and the quest for 'hot stuff.' What we need is a press as an active participant in restructuring!"

Regarding the abuses, irresponsibility, and "daring" of demagogues, M.S. Gorbachev asked with evident irony a question which also provides the unambiguous answer: "Is it likely that we, with such a mighty party and such a patriotic people devoted to the ideas of socialism and their motherland, shall be unable to cope in the event of someone trying to take advantage of the broad publicity and the democratic process for selfish and antisocial purposes, for the purposes of slander?"

Restructuring and the party's cadres policy affect every member of the Writers Union most directly. We are carrying out great work on the education of the Soviet people and nurturing their lofty moral qualities. One of our tasks is to participate in boosting the people's culture and spiritual potential, which is so necessary and so important under the conditions of restructuring.

The human factor is one of the main conditions for implementing revolutionary transformations, the 27th CPSU Congress emphasized. This is also the basis of the plenum decisions on restructuring and the party's cadre policy. In my view, these decisions apply to writers even more than to people in other professions. On the one hand, literary workers are the party's ideological cadres. On the other hand, they are also part of the human factor which requires that supreme political and moral qualities be nurtured and shaped in them. Why make a secret of it? It was the slackening of educational work during the "stagnation" years, the declining standards of political thinking and principledness, and the spiritual obesity that engendered in our literature the shortcomings for which it was harshly but fairly criticized at the 27th party congress and the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum.

One of our profession's peculiarities is that we write in isolation, in the silence of offices, so to speak. The "piecework" we produce must contain a major ideological charge. It is this specific aspect of individual creative work and the social weight of our "output" that place a particularly great responsibility on our creative organizations. Solicitous attitudes toward talented persons must be combined with attentive cultivation of them as personalities and creative workers, because works of art are sources of spiritual and ideological energy whose charge is transmitted to other people in their thousands and maybe even millions.

The plenum resolution "On Restructuring and the Party's Cadres Policy" contains remarkable passages defining party demands of cadres. In my view, these demands apply fully to writers both as assistants of the party and as representatives of a certain profession. Here are these demands: "Ideological commitment, professionalism, a sense of duty, principledness, and a high degree of responsibility for the veracity and accuracy of facts submitted for public judgement.

Wonderful qualities! The development of these remarkable qualities, especially necessary in the days of restructuring, must become the concern of party organizations in all creative associations, oblast and republic writers organizations, and the USSR Writers Union as a whole.

I would also like to share the following reflections from the days of the plenum's work.

History knows of many revolutions, and each one of them was, in various ways, similar to and different from the others. The present revolutionary transformations differ from all previous ones by their humane and democratic nature. Harsh measures were applied in all previous revolutions. The weight of the consequences of the "stagnation" years would give the party justification to act sternly at present. The party, however, did not take this path. Only impartial criticism and the advice: You who are either unwilling or unable to participate in the restructuring, step aside, do not stand in the way! Only the indifferent ones would step aside, the ones who organized the bygone stifling times and procedures; no honest working person can stand aside.

Here is a subject for a novelist, a real expanse of virgin soil untouched by anyone's pen. The new heroes are living next to us and are accomplishing deeds which revive our life. Everything seems familiar to us, and yet everything is different at the same time.

Major tasks lie ahead of our literature, but unfortunately not all writers have the strong mood of heart and spirit needed for restructuring. Public and backstage rivalries, jockeying for "position," settlement of accounts or vengeance for criticism, and bombardment by means of anonymous letters -- all far removed from creative affairs -- are still going on in some writers organizations. This distracts writers from the solution of major creative tasks, consuming much of their energy and at times even their health.

It is time, it is high time, indeed to put an end to these habits! Publicity and party principledness are the best medicine for such diseases.

A plenum of the USSR Writers Union Board will be held in the very near future, in March, to discuss the questions of our participation in the present restructuring of the country's entire social life. This, I hope, will be an occasion for a major, frank, and sharp conversation on what we have done and, mainly, what we have not done and what we still have to do in the light of the 27th CPSU Congress and the 8th All-Union Writers Congress decisions. I am confident our work will proceed in the atmosphere of the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum, an atmosphere of publicity and democracy.

During the months since the 27th party congress, many writers have kept quite well in line with the demands of the time. This was felt primarily in current affairs, literature's most up-to-the-minute genre. Poets also responded to the call of the times. Unfortunately, however, poetry is still waiting to take off, to take wings as dictated by the moral and political climate of the time. Prose writers are also slow in taking off, but that can still be "justified" by the very nature of the genre, especially bearing in mind the large-scale forms of literary creative work. The time has also come for them to say something new about our times.

It seems literary criticism has realized its errors and blunders. In any case, quite a few articles have been written on this subject and there are hopes that they will be followed up by specific analytical works devoted to the contemporary literary process. Critics no longer insult one another, they are uniting for the sake of the single noble cause of serving literature, and are channeling their efforts toward the solution of common writers' concerns.

We will, incidentally, for that reason meet at a plenum to talk honestly and in detail about all these matters and, as far as I know, many writers are actively preparing for this conversation. They do have things to say.

Everything must be subordinated to a single common goal: restructuring! We have been waiting a long time for it. The people have totally embraced the restructuring. It restores the image of genuine Leninist socialism. Our generation's fate is similar to the fate of those who accomplished the October Revolution. We are also implementing revolutionary transformations relying on Lenin's teaching. The way our generation will go down in history depends on us, on how we will implement the restructuring planned by the party.

Today's generation of literary workers has been assigned the mission of recording the majestic deeds of restructuring and creating a new stratum of Soviet literature in the last decades of the 20th century. It is highly desirable that our books should rank as equal in artistic weight with the best books by our predecessors who reflected the birth and establishment of the socialist society, the majestic characters of its builders, and their heroic deeds.

LIGACHEV, DEMICHEV CELEBRATE PAPER'S 70TH YEAR

PM171431 Moscow IZVESTIYA In Russian 15 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Time Set in Print"]

[Text] The newspaper IZVESTIYA... The first edition of the Soviets' press organ was published exactly 70 years ago. A ceremonial session held in Moscow 13 March was devoted to this important anniversary.

In the presidium were Ye.K. Ligachev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; P.N. Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; Yu.A. Sklyarov, chief of the CPSU Central Committee Propaganda Section; T.N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Presidium; L.N. Tolkunov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union; senior officials of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; and representatives of the mass media.

I.D. Laptev, IZVESTIYA editor in chief, delivered a report.

The session was addressed by M.A. Ulyanov, USSR People's Artist; V.V. Checheurov, chairman of the Pupshikino (Moscow Oblast) Gorispolkom; V.D. Morovzov, an IZVESTIYA typesetter; V.M. Falin, chairman of the APN Board; and S.P. Zalygin, editor in chief of the journal NOVYY MIR.

PAPER CARRIES JAN-FEB INDUSTRIAL FIGURES

PM171507 Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 12, Mar 87 (Signed to Press 12 Mar 87) p 2

[Unattributed "USSR Central Statistical Administration Report": "On Industry's Work in January-February 1987" -- passages with slantlines published in boldface]

[Text] The EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA editorial office has received a USSR Central Statistical Administration report on the results of industry's work in January-February 1987.

In February this year industry made inroads into the lag that was allowed to build up in January. Output growth amounted to 1.8 percent compared with February 1986.

The total volume of industrial output in January-February increased by 0.8 percent compared with the corresponding period last year, while the average daily output increased by 2.0 percent.

Enterprises' plans envisaged that output volume should increase by 3.6 percent compared with the plan for January-February last year. It actually exceeded the plan for the first 2 months of last year by 2.9 percent. Fulfillment of the labor productivity plan was not secured.

Some 77 percent of enterprises fully discharged their contractual commitments. In industry as a whole, however, the output sales plan taking delivery commmitments into account was fulfilled 97.3 percent.

The rate of output volume growth in January-February 1987 by national economic complexes and union republics is as follows (in percentages).

	Jan-Feb 1987 Plan as percentage of		Jan-Feb 1987 Actual as percentage of	
	Jan-Feb 1986 plan	Jan-Feb 1986 actual	Jan-Feb 1986 plan	Jan-Feb 1986 actual
Fuel and energy complex	3.4	2.0	3.8	2.4
Metallurgical complex	2.7	0.8	2.6	0.4
Machine building complex	4.6	2.3	-1.5	-3.6
Chemical industry and timber complex	4.6	2.2	3.4	1.1
Agro-industrial complex	2.4	-2.0	6.0	1.5
Construction industry complex -- USSR Ministry of the Construction Materials Industry	2.9	0.8	2.4	0.3
RSFSR	3.4	1.0	2.9	0.5
Ukrainian SSR	3.1	0.4	1.4	-1.2
Belorussian SSR	6.4	2.9	6.9	3.4
Uzbek SSR	4.1	-0.5	5.2	0.6

Kazakh SSR	3.8	0.1	4.9	1.1
Georgian SSR	1.9	-1.2	2.5	-0.6
Azerbaijan SSR	4.1	2.5	4.5	2.9
Lithuanian SSR	5.6	2.9	5.0	2.4
Moldavian SSR	5.6	1.6	4.9	0.9
Latvian SSR	3.8	0.7	1.1	-1.9
Kirghiz SSR	-2.3	-5.3	-1.3	-4.3
Tajik SSR	3.2	-1.2	6.1	1.6
Armenian SSR	4.7	2.0	5.7	2.9
Turkmen SSR	4.7	-0.4	8.1	2.8
Estonian SSR	3.0	-0.9	3.5	-0.4

The /fuel and energy complex/ met the targets for the extraction of the main types of fuel and for electricity and heat production has a whole:

	Produced in Jan-Feb 1987	Percentage plan fulfillment	
		Feb 1987	Jan-Feb 1987
Electricity, billion kilowatt-hours	301	100.3	100.7
Oil (including gas condensate), million metric tons	100	100.6	100.5
Gas, billion cubic meters	120	102	102
Coal, million metric tons	129	102	102

Some 2.5 million metric tons of coal, 0.5 million metric tons of oil (including gas condensate), and 2.1 billion cubic meters of gas were extracted in excess of the plan. Compared with January-February 1986, electricity production and oil extraction increased by 3 percent, gas extraction by 7 percent, and coal extraction by 0.7 percent.

Despite increased output in February, /ferrous metallurgy/ failed to make good the lag that was allowed to build up in January.

	Produced in Jan-Feb 1987	Percentage of plan fulfillment	
		Feb 1987	Jan-Feb 1987
Steel, million metric tons	26.0	101	99.4
Rolled ferrous metal products (finished) million metric tons	18.2	103	99.5
Steel pipes, million metric tons	3.1	104	98
Iron ore, million metric tons	40.3	102	102

The January-February targets for production of individual types of highly efficient metal products were not met, in particular Bessemer steel, electric steel, rolled low-alloy steel products, and high-impact drilling pipes.

/The machine building complex/ achieved 97.0 percent fulfillment of the January-February plan for output sales taking delivery commitments into account; the shortfall of output deliveries against commitments amounted to R474 million. The output plan was not fulfilled in terms of many types of products, as the following figures shows:

	Produced in Jan-Feb 1987	Percentage plan fulfillment	
		Feb 1987	Jan-Feb 1987
AC electric motors, million kilowatts	8.1	90	85
Metal-cutting machine tools, million rubles	421	92	89
Industrial robots, thousands	2.0	103	111
Instruments, automation equipment, and spare parts, million rubles	743	98	93
Computer equipment and spare parts, million rubles	697	93	91
Tractors, million horsepower	8.5	95	95
Agricultural machinery, million rubles	650	101	99
Grain harvesting combines, thousands	16.5	103	102
Machines and equipment for stock raising and feed production, million rubles	408	93	82

The fulfillment of plan targets for the manufacture of metal rolling equipment and diesel locomotives by the USSR Ministry of Heavy and Transport Machine Building, AC electric motors by the USSR Ministry of the Electrical Equipment Industry, feed harvesting combines by the USSR Ministry of Machine Building for Animal Husbandry and Feed Production, excavators by the USSR Ministry of Construction, Road, and Municipal Machine Building, and spinning machines by the USSR Ministry of Machine Building for Light and Food Industry and Household Appliances was not ensured.

The /chemical industry and timber complex/ increased output of mineral fertilizers, chemical fibers and yarns, newsprint, and several other types of products compared with January-February last year. Output of the main types of products is shown by the following figures:

	Produced in Jan-Feb 1987	Percentage plan fulfillment	
		Feb 1987	Jan-Feb 1987
Mineral fertilizers (in 100-percent nutrient equivalent), million metric tons	5.9	103	102
Chemical plant protection agents (in 100-percent active ingredients), thousand metric tons	56.7	97	98

Chemical fibers and yarns, thousand metric tons	251	100.5	99.8
Synthetic resins and plastics, thousand metric tons	900	99.5	95
Commercial lumber (excluding minor timber procurements), million trimmed cubic meters	64.1	101	99.1
Paper, thousand metric tons	1,000	99.4	98
of which newsprint, billion square meters	5.8	102	100

The fulfillment of plan targets for the manufacture of basic types of /construction materials/ is as follows:

	Produced in Jan-Feb 1987	Percentage of plan fulfillment	
		Feb 1987	Jan-Feb 1987
Cement, million metric tons	21.9	100.5	100.3
Precast ferroconcrete, million cubic meters	17.9	101	98
Asbestos cement sheet (single), billion standard tiles	1.4	100.3	100.3
Soft roofing and insulation materials, million square meters	326	99.3	99.9
Asbestos, thousand metric tons	346	102	101
Window glass, million square meters	42.2	100.3	100.2

During the 2-month period 62,000 metric tons of cement, 3.6 million standard tiles of asbestos cement sheet, 4,300 metric tons of asbestos, and 75,000 square meters of window glass were produced in excess of the plan.

Production of /consumer goods/ is as follows:

	Produced in Jan-Feb 1987	Percentage plan fulfillment	
		Feb 1987	Jan-Feb 1987
/Foodstuffs/			
Meat (from state raw material resources), million metric tons	2.0	108	108
Sausage products, thousand metric tons	589	103	102
Edible fish products including canned fish (USSR Ministry of the Fish Industry), thousand metric tons	988	104	105
Butter (from state raw material resources), thousand metric tons	152	116	116
Wholemilk products in milk equivalent (from state raw materials resources), million metric tons	5.0	106	104

/Goods for Cultural, Consumer Service, and Domestic Purposes/			
Radio receivers, millions	1.2	92	87
Television sets, millions	1.2	82	77
Tape recorders	682	85	81
Refigerators and freezers, thousands	935	97	93
Washing machines, thousands	860	97	92
Automobiles, thousands	216	107	99.8
Wallpaper, million standard lengths	81.7	99	100.1
Furniture, billion rubles	1.4	100.3	98
/Light Industry Goods/			
Textiles, all types, billion square meters	2.0	100.3	98
Knitted underwear and outerwear, million items	299	100.5	99.8
Hosiery, million pairs	330	101	100.8
Footwear, million pairs	135	99.9	99

/Agro-industrial complex/ sectors fulfilled the plan for production of the most important foodstuffs. Compared with January-February 1986, output growth was 4 percent for meat, 14 percent for butter, 3 percent for wholemilk products, and 48 percent for fruit juices. The manufacture of vodka, liqueurs, and wine made from grapes fell by 33 percent.

The fulfillment of the plan for the manufacture of a range of advanced types of domestic equipment -- color television sets, two- and three-compartment refrigerators, extra-convenient vacuum cleaners, engine blocks, and some others -- was not secured.

The USSR Ministry of Machine Building for Light and Food Industry and Household Appliances failed to fulfill the output plan for refigerators, freezers, and washing machines, and the USSR Ministry of the Communications Equipment Industry and the USSR Ministry of the Radio Industry failed to fulfill the output plan for radio receivers, television sets, and tape recorders.

/The USSR Ministry of Light Industry/ allowed a lag to build up in the output of cotton and silk textiles, sewn goods industry products, and leather goods. The output of children's footwear was below the planned figure.

ZASLAVSKAYA ON SOCIAL FACTORS, ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY

PM171643 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 9, 1 Mar 87 p 13

[Interview with Academician Tatyana Zaslavskaya by Vladimir Glotov: "The Reconstruction Is for Us"]

[Text] [Glotov] Regarding the intensification of the human factor in the life of society, science bases its conclusions on reality. Meanwhile, however, management of people, as times goes on, tends to get more complicated instead of more simple. Isn't that so?

[Zaslavskaya] The people whose behaviour is regulated by the existing management system are moving ever further away from the model of the so-called homo economicus, or economic man, who is sensitive only to material stimuli and administrative bans. The effectiveness of management depends on how big the arsenal of the stimuli and destimuli is. And if the stimuli are reduced only to the roubles and bonuses paid to a person, then a considerable part of human interests falls outside of management's influence.

That existing system of management of the human factor is distinguished for its extreme rigidity, unflexibleness and poor adaptability to the changing conditions of place and time. Hence the unending war waged by the economic managers on the letter of the old instructions, which do not correspond to the times, and which are, in general, like "the dead who clutch at the living". Except that in this case the "dead" have a much greater force than the "living" because the "dead" are backed up by law.

Sociological research shows that not even a fifth of all the workers in town and countryside work today to the best of their ability. The rest say that they are working below their capability and could do much more under different conditions. The management system that operated till now failed to cope, in a number of cases, with the influence of spontaneous factors, and the standards of planned socio-economic development declined. In order to avoid such an outcome, it is necessary in the future to overcome the alienation of a number of workers from the more important social values and to blend the personal, group and social interests together. In a socialist society the economic mechanism and the social policy serve as the main means for such coordination.

[Glotov] Social policy is defined in scientific and political literature as the endeavour to improve equally the material situation of each member of society. Is such an interpretation justified?

[Zaslavskaya] As I see it, this is an emaciated notion. In real life social policy merits the name of policy only because it envisages not a population, but the elevation of some social classes, strata and groups, a moderate improvement of the situation of other groups (above all, those who arbitrarily appropriated unjustified privileges as compared with the rest of the population).

[Glotov] The question, however, arises: If this policy is always differentiated and singles out social groups, among which some people are the society's prop in its struggle for communism, others are temporary allies, and still others act against this struggle, then how are these groups to be determined?

[Zaslavskaya] It is obvious that the achieved level of well-being of groups -- that is, the division of society into the poor, the middle and the wealthiest strata -- cannot serve as a criterion. The real boundary passes elsewhere and, therefore, the task of evening out the well-being of all classes, strata and groups, is not up-to date today. The real value of the different strata and groups in society should be determined by their attitude to the reconstruction of social relations now in progress, and the degree of coincidence of the groups' interests with social interests, which are, in their turn, determined by the objective situation of the corresponding groups in social production.

I think that the mass of people trained in different professions and employed in social production (without dividing them into workers, engineers and economic managers) is the main bulwark in the struggle for the perfection of production relations, for bringing them abreast of the productive forces, and, therefore, in the struggle for the future of the country and its place in the world community. This is because all these groups are vitally interested in the acceleration of socio-economic development, without which living standards cannot improve, and because they have considerable reserves for raising their working activities.

The second group comprises members of society who are prepared to work more intensely and effectively and not under general conditions but outside the social sector of production - at their personal small holdings, on a family contract basis in seasonal construction teams, and so on. [paragraph continues]

Since the work done by these people is necessary for society and is highly efficient, it is expedient to sign agreements with them on definite, mutually advantageous conditions. However, the development of such groups, including the level of their incomes and the improvement of their well-being, should be kept under control so as not to allow them to turn into a petty-bourgeois stratum, into NEPMEN with their bent for "high life," in my opinion, the workers in the individual enterprise sector can have an income per unit of work two-three, maybe four times higher than the level attained in social production, but if it would exceed it by, let's say, ten times, that would obviously be too much, and unjustified.

Lastly, there is the third group which consists of people, whose objective situation forces them to clutch at the old and resist in an all-round way the progressive transformations, the more so, that they do have such an opportunity. They are, above all, a part of the workers at the central economic departments and their local administrations. These people constitute the bureaucratic stratum which has swollen so much in the last decade or so, which enjoys socially unjustified privileges and which has a vested interest in preserving the former order.

We should also include in this group (although we should clearly understand the qualitative difference) the now strongly pressed but still surviving world of "shadow" black-market operators, profiteers, bribe takers and embezzlers of state property. The law on combatting unearned incomes is spearheaded exactly at them. At first glance, these are two utterly different groups. But the press systematicaly reports about the revelation of connections between the "shadow" operators, on the one hand, and corrupt workers in the management system, on the other. We can declare in all confidence that, without such connections, neither the former nor the latter would be able to satisfy their personal requirements so fully.

[Glotov] Doesn't this mean that work in central management organs compromises a person?

[Zaslavskaya] Decidedly not. Progressive-minded people and conservatives can be found in one and the same organization. The question is who wields power, who calls the tune, so to speak. Unfortunately, people who expect to "weather the storm" and who are secretly sabotaging reconstruction call the tune at many ministries. The social policy should be spearheaded against them. One of the fundamental ways of strenghtening socialist justice is, in particular, through eliminating the conditions which enabled these or those workers in the management field to establish privileges for themselves, as happened quite often before, and which has not yet been completely rooted out.

[Glotov] As we know, social policy is embodied in a social programme which has its immediate, that is, tactical tasks and its strategic goals. What could be included in the strategic programme?

[Zaslavskaya] The more important elements of the strategic programme are contained in the materials of the 27th CPSU Congress. However, scientists do not as yet, have a unanimous opinion when separate problems are discussed. I'll voice several ideas as a contribution to discussion.

To my mind, the more important steps are: the introduction of state accounting of personal incomes of the population through declarations which are to be submitted every year or each quarter; the transfer from the now practised taxation of wages to imposing taxes on the per-capita incomes of families, with account taken of all extra earnings; the introduction of a system which exempts the families with an income lower than the average from taxation, the main sum of taxes being obtained from families with the highest incomes.

The second step on the strategic road is the preparation for a complex reform: of wages in social production; of retail prices on consumer goods; and of the principles of distribution of social consumption funds.

[Glotov] How is it possible to determine the correct boundary between the paid-for and free distribution of wealth?

[Zaslavskaya] A number of scientists (I regard myself as one of them) are of the opinion that free distribution of social consumption funds must secure the equal for all guaranteed minimum of such things as housing, education and medical services. Everything consumed on top of that should be paid for from a person's income.

The present-day system of distribution of labour incomes operates in a different manner. The socio-economic approach to the division of the spheres of paid-for and free distribution of funds is being replaced, without any grounds for doing so, by a material approach, when some things (for example, clothing and food) are sold, while others (housing, medical services and education) are offered free in full measure.

This practice artificially limits the possibility of turning labour incomes into the things most needed by the population (housing, vouchers for sanatoriums, skilled medical aid, and so on), thus lowering the interest in labour. In addition, this system signifies what is essentially a spontaneous and unplanned redistribution of incomes between groups which have an unequal possibility of making use of social consumption funds. In real life, this leads to the intensified socio-economic differentiation of the population, and more often than independent of labour.

The scope of redistribution, strictly speaking, is unknown and hidden from society. Lastly, the free distribution of scarce creatures comforts leads to an artificial increase in their scarcity, to wasteful use of them and also to shady dealings, because the role of the human factor is of the greatest importance in the free distribution of creature comforts, and man often proves not to be sufficiently fair in this case.

[Glotov] I think that there are questions which will have to be settled in the future -- everything that belongs to the realm of exchange of wages and other incomes for consumer goods sold for money. Isn't that so?

[Zaslavskaya] It is. We are now encountering a substantial devaluation of prices from cost. For example, meat, milk and butter are sold at prices which are substantially lower, not only than their social cost, but than their production cost, too. We have to make up for the difference between the high procurement prices for meat and milk and the low retail prices on products using them, made up for from the state budget, which runs into tens of billions of roubles. Half of this sum is distributed spontaneously -- as a donation to the population groups which buy food at stable state prices. So it turns out that we artificially stimulate the consumption of the more scarce products, whereas it would be more correct to restrain it. In the long run, it is the already privileged part of the population that benefits from this kind of distribution, and the main mass of the working people who are the losers, especially the rural population and residents of small towns where the supplies of meat and milk to the shops is much worse.

A similar role is played by the obviously insufficient differentiation of prices on goods according to their quality. In the USSR it is very low, and because of that it is the high-quality goods that are especially scarce in our country. By putting such goods into a special category, rejecting a free sale of them, and offering them to limited groups of the population also signifies a closed redistribution of incomes derived from work, and, therefore, a violation of the socialist principle of distribution.

The question of retail prices is closely connected with the existence in our country of several consumer markets, which differ in range, quality and prices of goods, and also with the composition of the groups which use these markets. "I'm referring to state retail trade, cooperative trade, the collective farm market, the sale of goods for coupons, the closed forms of distribution, the Beryozka shop system, and so on.

[Glotov] Doesn't the existence of several consumer markets mean that there exists a substantial differentiation of the purchasing power of the rouble, earned by different groups of workers?

[Zaslavskaya] This is quite a reasonable judgement. The system of wages in our country is built on the assumption that all earned roubles are worth the same. As a result of this, the scope of consumption by some groups of the population is sometimes not connected with the amount of work performed by these groups.

The raising of retail prices on some consumer goods, rent paid over and above the guaranteed minimum and the introduction of partial payment for medical services -- all that must be very well thought out before it can be applied. That is the main reason why I include the preparations for and the launching of the reform of prices and wages in the programme.

Lastly, the third trend in the long-term work to be done, which will yield results beyond the 12th and, maybe, the 13th Five-Year Plans, is the transfer by sectoral ministries to the local soviets of the functions of managing the development of the non-productive sphere, including the building up of the social infrastructure.

[Glotov] Let's try to sum up. What are the necessary conditions for coping successfully with the social programme?

[Zaslavskaya] First of all, we must not regard the social programme as a means for "mending holes" and solving current problems, but we should instead give it a strategic nature.

A natural blending of the programmes for economic management and social development of society is necessary, and we should take into account, in social policy, the probable (Land the more so inevitable) consequences of the economic decisions that are being adopted, and society's social requirements -- in the economic programmes. We must take into account not only what benefits society will get from whatever we are doing, but also the "price" which must be paid for it. We must forecast the side effects that will be produced by the planned policy and work out a means of making them minimal.

We must use mainly democratic ways of applying new relations and reject the administrative-bureaucratic, formal application of social innovations.

A differentiated approach must be applied to the solution of social problems in different republics, regions, socio-demographic, professional and other groups.

We must develp feedback relations in management and our, we admit, poor system of social statistics and sociological research into the economy.

In general, we must perfect its organization and the ways of linking socio-economic research with practical work. Such are the conditions under which we will be able to make progress.

SPARE PARTS SHORTAGE HALTS WORK AT PLANT

LD132343 [Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 1530 GMT on 11 March carries a 2-minute report in its "Vremya" newscast on production difficulties at the Ustinov motor vehicle works. The announcer introduces correspondent F. Simakov video report from the main assembly shop at the Ustinov works, in which Simakov says: "Things are quiet on the conveyor belt -- unusually quiet. It has been this way since the start of the year -- at the time this was filmed, assembly workers were more than 2,000 cars behind schedule. It is too quiet in the dispatch department as well, as there is virtually nothing to dispatch -- usually this area is crowded with cars."

The correspondent then interviews a female team leader in the brake component assembly section on the inactivity in the section. Asked why, she says: "We have not been working for six shifts. There is a holdup because of the lack of sealing rings supplied by the Volga rubber engineering components works in Volgograd Oblast. Even among those supplied there are rings of poor quality or ill-fitting."

Simakov then moves outside the motor works to stand by rows of cars. He says: "Look at these cars, with no rear side windows -- a sad and, regrettably, very eloquent result of the shortfalls by allied trade workers." Simakov then interviews the works' deputy director, Andriyanov, who states: "The Volga rubber engineering components works systematically disrupts supplies of sealing strips for rear windows. At the end of January, 442 cars had to be stored in this lot in an unfinished state." Andriyanov goes on to note that the Chaykovskiy synthetic rubber works could produce components for the Ustinov works' cars. He points out the works is only 100 kilometers distant, which would help make supplies much cheaper.

JAN-FEB STOCKRAISING FIGURES SUMMARIZED

PM171535 Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 12, March 87 (Signed to Press 12 Mar 86) p 17

[Unattributed "Statistical Summary": "Stockraising on Kolkhozes and Sovkhozes"]

[Text] The editorial office has received USSR Central Statistical Administration figures for the state of stockraising on kolkhozes and sovkhozes in January-February 1987.

I. Production of Livestock Products [subhead]

In January-February this year, the country's kolkhozes and sovkhozes achieved the following results in the production of livestock products:

Indicators	Jan-Feb 1987	Jan-Feb 1987 as Percentage of Jan-Feb 1986
Meat production (sale of livestock and poultry for slaughter, live weight), thousand metric tons	3,665	105
of which:		
cattle	2,253	107
pigs	929	103
sheep and goats	55	93
poultry	428	102
Gross milk yield, thousand metric tons	9,886	107
Average milk yield per cow, kg	344	107
Hen eggs, millions	9,580	102
Average egg yield of laying hens, units	36	100

Kolkhoz and sovkhoz meat production increased by 174,000 metric tons in comparison with the same period last year. Meat production increased on farms in most union republics with the exception of Lithuania, Moldavia, and Estonia.

The greatest increase in meat production in the RSFSR was secured by kolkhozes and sovkhozes in the North Osetian ASSR, Volgograd, Voronezh, and Magadan Oblasts, the Kabardino-Balkar ASSR, Murmansk Oblast, Komi ASSR, Kostroma, Ryazan, Saratov, Ulyanovsk, and Kemerovo Oblasts, and the Buryat ASSR.

Meat production was allowed to decline on farms in Ivanovo, Vladimir, Sverdlovsk, Omsk, and Kaliningrad Oblasts and in the Yakutsk, Kalmyk, and Chechen-Ingush ASSR.

The gross milk yield in January-February 1987 was 614,000 metric tons more than in January-February last year. An increase in milk production was secured by stock unit workers in all union republics except Moldavia and Tajikistan.

A sharp increase in milk production in the RSFSR was achieved by kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Chita Oblast, Khabarovsk and Maritime Krays, the Kalmyk ASSR, and Ivanovo, Tula, Chelyabinsk, and Tomsk Oblasts. Milk production declined on farms in Pskov, Kursk, Penza, Kurgan, and Tyumen Oblasts and the North Osetian ASSR.

Egg production on kolkhozes and sovkhozes in January-February 1987 increased by 151 million compared with the same period last year.

II. Purchases of Livestock Products in the Country (On All Categories of Farms) [subhead]

Types of Product Purchased	Purchased During Jan-Feb 1987	Jan-Feb 1987 as Percentage of Jan-Feb 1986
Livestock and poultry (live weight), thousand metric tons	3,761	105
Milk, thousand metric tons	8,759	108
Eggs, millions	9,312	100.8

The volume of livestock and poultry sales to the state in January-February 1987 increased by 191,000 metric tons in comparison with the same period last year. There was a decline in sales of livestock and poultry by farms in Estonia, Lithuania, Armenia, Uzbekistan, and Moldavia.

In the RSFSR, livestock and poultry purchases increased on kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Voronezh, Orenburg, and Volgograd Oblasts, the Bashkir ASSR, Saratov and Ulyanovsk Oblasts, Stavropol and Krasnoyarsk Krays, and Ryazan and a number of other oblasts.

Livestock and poultry purchases declined on farms in the Yakutsk, Chechen-Ingush, and Kalmyk ASSR, Sverdlovsk and Omsk Oblasts, the Tuva ASSR, and Ivanovo, Vladimir, Tula, and Kaliningrad Oblasts.

Purchases of milk and dairy products increased by 645,000 metric tons during January-February 1987. Farms in all union republics except Tajikistan increased milk sales to the state.

In the RSFSR milk purchases increased sharply on kolkhozes and sovkhozes in the Kalmyk ASSR, Chita Oblast, the Buryat ASSR, Ivanovo, Kirov, and Tula Oblasts, Khabarovsk Kray, Ryazan Oblast, Maritime Kray, and Bryansk and Amur Oblasts. Milk sales declined on farms in Tyumen and Kurgan Oblasts, the Chechen-Ingush ASSR, Kursk Oblast, and Komi ASSR.

Egg sales to the state in January-February 1987 increased by 78 million in comparison with the same period last year.

III. Production and Purchases of Livestock Products by Union Republic [subhead]

Union republic	Jan-Feb 1987 as Percentage of Jan-Feb 1986					
	Production			Purchases		
	Meat	Milk	Eggs	Livestock and Poultry	Milk	Eggs
USSR	105	107	102	105	108	100.8
RSFSR	106	108	102	107	109	102
of which the Non-Chernozem Zone	102	109	102	101	110	103
Ukrainian SSR	103	103	98	107	104	95
Belorussian SSR	108	113	102	107	119	102
Uzbek SSR	102	111	111	97	111	109
Kazakh SSR	107	110	104	102	110	105
Georgian SSR	101	106	97	102	107	103
Azerbaijan SSR	117	101	115	109	104	112
Lithuanian SSR	98	103	109	95	106	112
Moldavian SSR	99.1	99.6	96	97	103	91
Latvian SSR	103	103	94	103	104	95
Kirghiz SSR	109	106	104	118	105	102
Tajik SSR	116	99.5	120	116	99.96	115
Armenian SSR	100.9	102	105	96	103	109
Turkmen SSR	105	104	114	107	101	114
Estonian SSR	83	105	97	83	108	97

IV. Livestock Numbers [subhead]

As of 1 March 1987 there were 96.1 million head of cattle on kolkhozes and sovkhozes -- 1.4 million more than in the corresponding period last year. There were 28.9 million cows. The pig population reached 60.3 million, which is an increase of 1.2 million. Sheep and goats numbered 123.4 million, which is an increase of 2 million. The number of poultry stood at 751.6 million.

AGRICULTURE MACHINERY REPAIRS PROGRESSING

LD162054 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Semen Astakhov Commentary: "Machinery preparations for the spring sowing campaign -- a report of the USSR Central Statistical Administration"]

[Excerpt] I will not quote any figures from the Central Statistical Administration's Report. I will merely say that the readiness of agricultural machinery at the moment is on a par with the same time last year, with the exception of potato planters. Repairs of these are lagging behind. Matters concerning preparation of the powerful K-700 tractors are somewhat better than a year ago. In previous years, repairs of these vehicles were very slow. However, in the country as a whole, at present about 25,000 Kirovets vehicles are due to be restored. There are especially a lot in Orel, Kursk and Perm Oblasts.

Mass sowing is under way in Turkmenistan, but the readiness of seeding and other machines is very low there. At the same time that sowing machinery is being overhauled, the preparation of combine harvesters and motor vehicles for the harvest is also under way. Such vehicles, as you know, require many tires. We were told at the State Committee for the Agro-Industrial Complex that kolkhozes and sovkhozes do not have enough of them, and the USSR Gosplan allocated only 80 percent of requirements from the funds. I believe that the Gosplan was right because farms should gather up worn-out tires and put them out for renovation. They are being thrown away. But this is not being done everywhere. [passage omitted]

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